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MAYWEATHER AND PACQUIAO

Mayweather: No rush to fight Pacquiao
SPORTS / A16

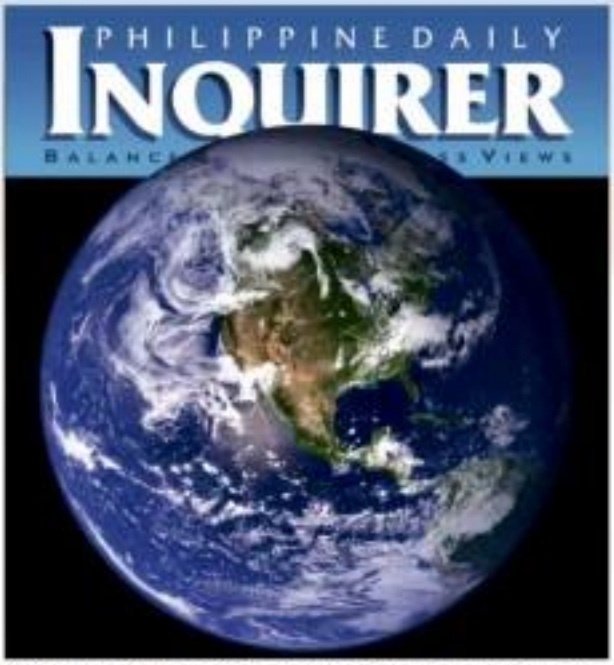
South African golfer Oosthuizen wins British Open SPORTS / A17

Oil seepage detected; BP ordered to give new plan WORLD / A22

Values and giving back –the Lewis women continue a legacy
LIFESTYLE / C1

Son of Comelec Commissioner Yusoph freed by abductors
NEWS / A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANC[illegible] VIEWS



HOT PLANET This image obtained on March 2 shows the most detailed set of composite images produced by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa). Last month was the hottest June ever recorded on Earth, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa), based on data dating back to 1880. AFP/NASA

2010 turning out to be hottest year on record, says US

THIS MAY EXPLAIN why, on certain days in the midst of the rainy season, you are sweating like a horse.

The world is enduring the hottest year on record, according to a US national weather analysis, causing droughts worldwide, a Reuters report from Washington said yesterday.

For the first six months of the year, 2010
2010 /A9

SC accused of plagiarism in sex slave case

By Norman Bordadora

THE LAWYERS of Filipino women who claimed to have been made sex slaves by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II have accused the Supreme Court of plagiarism in dismissing demands for compensation and apology from Japan.

Harry Roque and Rachel Pagaran said the decision in Vinuya et Executive Secretary lifted without attribution articles
SC ACCUSED /A7

Water crisis may worsen

Honasan: Amnesty for Trillanes

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

AS PRESIDENT AQUINO tangled with lawmakers on whether to reinvestigate the coup case against detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, a legislator who had been linked to at least five coup plots yesterday proposed amnesty for his fellow rebel.

In a statement, Sen. Gregorio Honasan said that granting amnesty to Trillanes, detained for seven years on charges of coup d'etat, would prevent "politicizing the judicial process" and eliminate controversy.

"Given the opportunity, I will propose an amnesty bill," Honasan said, adding that not only Trillanes but fellow dissident Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon could also benefit from it.
HONASAN /A6

Sarmiento appointed Pagcor chief

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday appointed Jorge Sarmiento, a former deputy commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission, as president and chief operating officer of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Sarmiento, brother of Elections Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, was among
SARMIENTO /A6

HEAVY BURDEN Elderly women carry a bucket of water after lining up for hours at a deep-well pump in Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, on Monday. Many parts of Metro Manila including 23 barangays in Quezon City are experiencing water shortage due to the low water level of Angat Dam. MYFI JOSON

Slay of activist kin accidental?

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A cousin of slain Aklan activist Fernando Baldomero may have accidentally shot himself dead and his death was not related to the attack on his relative, police authorities said.

Most likely, Erasmo Ingeniero accidentally shot himself on July 15 during a drinking session with friends, said Senior Supt. Epthonin Borgazin Jr., Aklan police director and head of Task Force Baldomero, citing police findings.

This also showed that Ingeniero's shooting had no connection with Bal-
SLAY /A11

Millions in Metro endure rationing

By Amy R. Remo and Christian V. Esguerra

WATER SUPPLY in Metro Manila may worsen and could leave half of Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s customers with only six hours of service daily should the coming rains fail to increase the water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan, company officials said.

Large swaths of Maynilad's concession area in the metropolis are already experiencing water rationing or running supply interruptions since July 16.

Manila Water, the other concessionaire in the metropolis, said some areas in the East Zone, although getting regular service, were experiencing reduced pressure particularly in the elevated areas of Marikina, Pasig, San Mateo, Rodriguez and the farther points of the concession like Tagaig City (See the West and East zones concession areas on Page A8.)

But President Aquino yesterday said there was no water crisis yet.

"The DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways), the DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications), and DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), have not yet afforded me information that there is already a water crisis," he told reporters.

The President said he was himself concerned about the status of Angat Dam, which remained relatively dry despite the recent onslaught of Typhoon "Basyang."
WATER /A1

Aquino stands by Abads; where's the honeymoon?

By Christian V. Esguerra and Lolit B. Salaverria

SO WHATEVER happened to the 100-day honeymoon?

President Aquino yesterday expressed dismay over the stinging criticism he got from lawmakers for having too many Abads in his administration.

Less than three weeks into the presidency, Mr. Aquino said he was not given a honeymoon period—the absence of any major criticism from the press and political detractors—customarily accorded to a new chief executive.

"Just because I'm a bachelor, they thought I hadn't experienced a honeymoon so they did not give me any," he said in Filipino. "So I'll just say 'thank you' to them."

Mr. Aquino has appointed Florencio "Butch" Abad budget secretary and his daughter Julia chief of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS).

In addition, Abad's son Luis has been
AQUINO /A4

Cinemalaya showcases best of RP indies

By Bayani Sus Diega Jr.
Entertainment

BECAUSE THE WORLD will be watching, the country's premier indie competition served notice to global audiences that there's still much room for diversity, experimentation and fresh material in Philippine cinema.

Veterans and newcomers—from acclaimed director Gil Portes to 18-year-old filmmaker Mikhail Red—shared top honors at the 6th Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, a 10-day viewing feast, which culminated with the awards ceremonies on Sunday night at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Young filmmaker Sherad Dayot's "Hubad" won two top prizes in the New Breed Features section, for Best Film and Director. The grimy drama tells the story of Filipinos trying to cross the
CINEMALAYA /A19

SORIANO: Best Actress for "Donor"

GEISLER: Best Actor for "Donor"

MELY accepts the Best Film award for "Donor." PHOTOS BY NOEL D. CELIS/PCIJ

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Tropical depression "Ulpiang" was generated offshore of Basilan, Zamboanga and is forecast to move West at 15 kph. The entire country will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Aparri	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Naga City	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Surigao	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Dipolog	Mostly Cloudy

Second
FRONTPAGE

Manila Bulletin | Philippine Star | Philippine Daily Inquirer | Philippine Daily Inquirer

6/27

2PM	3	9
5PM	2	25
9PM	30	23

SUERTRES

2 p.m.	2	9	5
5 p.m.	9	2	2
9 p.m.	8	7	2

FOUR DIGIT Tuesday

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MEGALOTTO 6/45

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P22,572,739.80

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

6 37 41 42 48 50

P60,359,088.80

LOTTO 3PM Tues (06) LOTTO, send to 4441. PLSticker

Now's best time to Cha-cha, says solon

By Lolit B. Salaverria

THERE IS NO better time to cha-cha than now, when the administration is young and suspicions are low.

This according to La Union Rep. and Charter change (Cha-cha) advocate Victor Ortega, who has filed another resolution calling for a constitutional convention.

The first Cha-cha resolution was filed earlier this month by former president now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ortega, who chaired the committee on constitutional amendments in the last Congress, noted that Cha-cha issues then were snagged because people suspected that President Arroyo would take advantage of it to perpetuate herself in power.

But now that Arroyo is no longer in Malacañang, these issues are unlikely to be raised again.

"The start of the term of the new President is also the best time to talk of amending the Constitution, because suspicions are more likely an artist if the issue is tackled in the end of an administration," Ortega said.

"I think that is the proper time. If we tackle this in the last year of the administration, they will again say it would be divisive. We really have to do this at the beginning [of a term]," he said in a phone interview.

Some of Arroyo's critics, however, are still suspicious of any Cha-cha move. A proposal to shift from the current presidential system to a parliamentary one, they said, could indicate that Arroyo is planning to become prime minister.

President Aquino's allies have warned that the new administration had the mandate to kill any moves to put Arroyo back in power.

But Ortega said that the security of Arroyo becoming prime minister was "a long shot." "But that to happen, many factors would have to come my way, he said.

He also said that the "pessimism" of some parties that Cha-cha would do away with the "Cory Constitution" of 1987 was "baseless."

"We just want to improve it. Who doesn't want the Constitution to be better?" he said.

He said his joint resolution for the House and Senate to call for a constitutional convention was more detailed than the House resolution filed recently by Arroyo. He said he was calling for a convention so any changes would not come from lawmakers.

Among the controversial proposals for Charter change drawn up by an unwieldy opposition by Arroyo a few years ago was the shift to parliamentary government, and to the economic field, the lifting of restrictions on direct foreign investments in the country's natural resources.

The 1987 Constitution restricts investments in natural resource exploitation, such as mining and forestry, in corporations with at least 60-percent Filipino ownership. Land ownership is also limited to citizens. The government has proven a powerful source of those restrictions by taking service contract arrangements but proponents of Charter change believe lifting the constitutional restrictions will better spur foreign investor confidence.

There was also a proposal to mark down on "unresponsible" media.

The most controversial item in the Arroyo administration's draft was the so-called "transitory provision," which would extend the terms of elected officials to allow for the transition to parliamentary government.

Arroyo's Cha-cha move, however, bogged down on the method of changing the Charter. The Supreme Court junked a signature campaign or "people's initiative" as a "grand fraud." It also rejected one that the method of amending the Charter lacked implementing guidelines.

Another method, transforming the two chambers of Congress into a constituent assembly, was trashed down by the Senate.

Calling a constitutional convention (Con-con) is a longer method, requiring a special election to choose delegates who will then deliberate on proposed changes. The convention's proposed Charter changes must then be approved by the people in a referendum.

Palace: No gimmicks in Aquino Sona

By Christine F. Esguerra

EXPECT no "Marag Baesley" or "hanghang papel boys" in President Aquino's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday.

Assisted by a team of writers, the President is to do the trick of drafting his first Sona, one that would be bereft of "frills but substance," quoting" just the same, according to Malacañang.

"It's gonna be exciting," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told the business.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa said the speech would be unlike those of former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, which made use of real-life characters as a rallying point for their respective programs against poverty.

It was Felipe "Marag Baesley" Rosario who became the symbol of the Filipino Everyman for the Ramos administration, and Jason Pabalina, Jomar Barcegan and Erwin Ordoza—the three boys who had fronted paper boats bearing requests from the government—during Arroyo's time.

"We don't do gimmicks," Ochoa told reporters. "You know the style of the President. It's more or less straightforward. I don't think we have changed."

Mr. Aquino said his speech would focus on the current state of the government as seen from the various "tax of the land" reports coming from different Cabinet departments.

"The second bread pans will be what we are doing about the problems discovered, and the third, what proposals we are finishing out [in order] the real needs of the country, especially the big sticker items such as infrastructure and equipment," he said.

Mr. Aquino said he was concerned, for instance, about the needs of the Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy, especially in the wake of an Air Force training plane that crashed yesterday (Story on Page A7).

"The proposals are overwhelming," Ochoa said. "We have so many requests. But we have been significantly cautious to undertake those major infrastructure projects."

He added that the President would preside over a full Cabinet meeting today, partly to tackle the contents of his Sona on July 26. An ashes Cabinet meeting is set before the end of the week.

Lacierda said the President had a soft copy of his speech, which would still be subject to changes until its actual delivery.

"There are still a lot of blanks, owing to reports that have yet to come in," he said.

Abducters free Yusoph son

MAGUAN CITY—The kidnapped son of Commission on Elections Commissioner Elias Yusoph was released by his abductors yesterday afternoon.

Brig. Gen. Rey Ardo, commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade, told the business by phone that the victim, Nasrullen Yusoph, 22, had been released by his captors.

Ardo refused to give details.

The young Yusoph, who is training to be an imam, was abducted on the evening of June 22 in Barangay Salsala-Amanan in this city while on his way to pray at Bato Ali Mosque.

According to authorities, the kidnappers demanded the nullification of election results in the towns of Mulabang, Pitang Tarako and Maxin in Lanao del Sur to exchange for the release of the young Yusoph.

This led authorities to suspect that those behind the abduction were losing candidates in the May 10 elections.

Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao

BIR: Another big fish to fall

THE CHIEF of the Bureau of Internal Revenue yesterday told reporters that the agency would file another tax evasion case against a prominent person this week, in line with the Aquino administration's promise to catch tax cheats recently.

Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares declined to elaborate, but assured tax cheats to settle their liabilities before formal charges were filed against them.

"Don't wait for us to file a case against you. Please pay already your correct taxes because once we file a case, it never will be our concern [as far as we are] concerned," she said.

Asked by reporters how "big" the next respondent would be, Henares said, "We do not file small cases. It will be a major case. We cannot tell you who it is on the radar because it will be unfair to the people involved."

Last week, the government filed tax evasion charges against gambling czar PCSOlunt Mahusay, who allegedly paid only P231,687 in taxes from 1998 to 2009.

With the revenue target for the year revised to P860 billion, Henares said, the BIR now needed to collect P62 billion monthly. (See related story on B4.)

The BIR collected P59.37 billion in June, P5.3 billion less than its target, the agency said yesterday.

The government has raised the BIR collection target by P30 billion to P860.4 billion this year after it widened its 2010 budget deficit because to P325 billion, or 3.9 percent of the gross domestic product.

Wednesday Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo said yesterday that one way to help raise our tax effort would be to give progressively tax incentives or issuances, and to just focus on creating a consistent and stable business environment in order to boost the country's economy.

Gunigundo, who used to head the House committee on labor and employment, pushed for the rationalization of tax breaks that the government granted to foreign investors to entice them to come to the Philippines. Christine F. Esguerra and Lolit B. Salaverria

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The following officials are candidates for CES Eligibility. They will be subjected to a validation/background investigation. Please submit any feedback, report or opposition to the conferment of CES eligibility on any of the following candidates:

1. ABAYA, VICTOR D.	Executive Director III	Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
2. ABELLA, ERNESTO C.	Regional Director	Commission on Elections - Region VIII
3. ABELLO, ANTONIO M.	Director III	Department of Budget and Management
4. ACOSTA, ANTONIO M.	Chief Public Attorney	Public Attorney's Office
5. ADAN, ROMEO C.	Director III	Department of Budget and Management
6. ADRIANO, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region III
7. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region IV-A
8. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region IV-B
9. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region V
10. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region VI
11. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region VII
12. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region VIII
13. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region IX
14. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region X
15. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region XI
16. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region XII
17. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Region XIII
18. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - ARMM
19. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - CAR
20. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - NCR
21. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Central Office
22. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Central Office
23. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Central Office
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39. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Central Office
40. AGUILAR, ANTONIO M.	Regional Director	Department of Agrarian Reform - Central Office

Please forward information, feedback or request for a hearing before August 5, 2010 to the Office of the Executive Director, CESB, No. 7 Kamagong Street, Holy Spirit Drive, Diliman, QC or fax to 910-1502 or 911-1506.

(Sgd.) MARIA ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES, CESO I
Executive Director

July 19, 2010

Health secretary backs release of 'Morong 43'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

HEALTH SECRETARY Enrique Ona is supporting calls to free 43 health workers arrested by the military in Morong, Rizal, in February on suspicion of being communist rebels, according to leaders of two health organizations.

Ona voiced his support for the release of the "Morong 43" yesterday during a dialogue with members of the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW), led by its national president Emma Glamor, and Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD) led by its secretary general Ella Cesario Rivera.

"The government security clusters [should also voice] support. I assure that has been well-studied therefore we will also follow suit. I would also voice support," Ona told members of the non-government organizations, as well as union leaders of national government hospitals who were present at the dialogue.

Ona said he was familiar with the "surrounding events" because Dr. Melissa Velasquez, source of the Morong report when the health workers were meetings on Feb. 6, was a classmate in medical school.

Ona, however, said he was not aware of the findings of the investigation into the case. "I asked her (Velasquez) if there was truth to the allegation that the health workers were under surveillance. She said there was," Ona said.

Ona said he was not aware of the "basis" of the arrest of the health workers.

Ona, a leading transplant surgeon, was director of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute before he accepted President Aquino's offer to be health secretary.

But said one of the reasons he was persuaded to leave his medical post and accept the health portfolio was Aquino's promise to "upgrade only income" the health budget.

"We're now members of the commission [on People's Army (NPA)]. In essence, wala rin siya masyado alam about [the doctor's] knowledge about that subject."

The 43 health workers, most of them women, include two doctors, a nurse and a midwife. They are facing charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Sharing the dialogue, Ona expressed agreement with seven public health concerns raised by AHW and HEAD.

These include the need to seek an increase in next year's Health budget from the current P64 billion to P66 billion; free health care and medicines for the poor; increased salaries and benefits for health workers; more health professionals deployed to rural/far areas; and expulsion of government hospital directors accused of corruption and abuse.

"This very timeline with all these things, I am not sure that the DOH I will support the issues you've raised to the last of my ability," Ona told them.

But said one of the reasons he was persuaded to leave his medical post and accept the health portfolio was Aquino's promise to "upgrade only income" the health budget.

'MWSS chair not my nominee'

PEXLIE Melo Secretary Rogelio Singson has denied President Aquino's claim that he had nominated someone else to chair the board of trustees of the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

"I have not recommended anyone for chairman of MWSS," Singson told the Inquirer yesterday. He did not provide details.

At the Iloilo City Freeport on Friday, the President told reporters that Singson had "nominated somebody else" to handle MWSS.

Mr. Aquino also said that he had approved Singson's recommendation but could not remember the nominee's name.

Mr. Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said MWSS senior deputy administrator Marilo Cruz had been appointed officer in charge of the agency while it is attached to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

On Friday, Singson told the Inquirer that he was giving up the MWSS post "out of deference [propriety] and possible conflict of interests."

The MWSS negotiators, among others, Manabat Velasco Associates Inc., the private water concessionaire of which Singson was president and chief executive ... officer from June 1, 2007, until last June 30.

Singson took over the MWSS top post on July 7, replacing Gerhard Chandler, the official adviser of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Singson had written Chandler on July 6 that it was the "desire of His Excellency President Benigno Aquino III that the secretary of public works and highways immediately assume the position of ex-officio chairman of the board of trustees of the MWSS," Aces E. Espinosa/ate

Party-list groups may sit, but not their nominees

By Jo-ann Maglay

THREE MORE party-list groups were proclaimed winners in the May 10 polls by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday but their nominees will can't take their seats where Congress opens on Monday.

Proclaimed were 1-United Transport Koalisyon (1-Ako); Advocacy for Youth Empowerment through Action, Cooperation and Education-Association toward Educational Reforms (A-Teacher); and Bida Farmers Party.

The three groups were among the 11 winners of the party-list race whose proclamations were deferred due to questions about their registration.

However, the first nominees of these groups still can't take their seats because of pending cases regarding their qualifications to represent their sectors.

The first nominees of 1-Utak and 4 Teacher, former Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes and Mariano Piamonte, respectively, will not be able to take their seats in Congress until their cases are resolved.

Militant transport groups questioned Reyes' qualification to represent marginalized members of the transport sector.

The Comelec said the groups' second nominees may initially assume the representative House seats when the legislative session opens.

In the case of Bida, it has two pending cases of nominees.

The issue of disqualifications of party-list nominees does not pertain to the qualifications of an organization to participate in the party-list system of representation and should, therefore, not affect the entitlement of the party-list organization to guaranteed additional seats," said the Comelec, acting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC).

According to the NBC tally, A-Teacher received 634,729 votes; Bida, 606,369 votes; and 1-Utak, 220,002 votes.

The three groups are then entitled to one seat each in the House of Representatives.

With the resolution of the cases of the three groups, 56 of the 57 seats allotted for party-list groups in the House have been filled.

On May 31, the NBC proclaimed 28 party-list groups, allotting them 53 seats.

The top-ranked groups were entitled to more than one seat.

Meanwhile, eight other party-list organizations have pending petitions to cancel their registrations. These are: Aksi Buhay Bubbled Area, Buhay Hayaan Yumabong, Pilot Consumers Alliance for Rural Energy, Coconuts Party, Alliance for Advancement of Filipino Informal Settlers in Urban Areas, Alliance for Rural Concerns, LPG-Marketers Association Inc., Ang Asosasyon Nang Mga Pangguros Nga Bikolnon Para Mangyunggan Inc., Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives and Alliance for National Renewal and Democracy.

This means their nominees, even if they are qualified, cannot take their seats in the House until the petitions are resolved.

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No sleeping on the job, vows new chair of higher education

By Philip C. Tubeza

NO MORE sleeping on the job.

Education Patricia Licuanan yesterday formally took over the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and vowed to help "reverse the deterioration of Philippine higher education."

Licuanan took over from former CHED chair Emmanuel Angeles during a simple turn-over ceremony at the main office in Quezon City yesterday morning.

"When President Aquino announced Licuanan's appointment three weeks ago, he scored the CHED for "sleeping on the job," for failing to crack down on schools whose graduates consistently failed to pass the board exams.

"There is so much that needs to be done. All of us have to make sure we are not sleeping on the job," said Licuanan, the immediate past president of Miriam College.

"As chair of CHED, I consider it my job (and how I paraphrase the words of Shimon Peres) — to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. That is both a promise and a warning," she said.

Licuanan said the CHED under her watch would have the "political will" to implement the much-needed reforms in the educational system and not just some out with studies that have been done.

The CHED would also closely monitor and eventually close down schools that continue to produce graduates who fail the board exams.

"It would be easy to see if the schools have not really produced any passers... and be pro-active instead of some existing schools — have been doing," she said.

Meanwhile, militant academics warned that the "education crisis" had worsened and urged Licuanan to address the "unprecedented increase in tuition and other fees" being charged by private higher education institutions, both public and private."

Antonio Bernabe, president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP), said the national average tuition fee in the country had has gone up by 94.7 percent, while in the National Capital Region tuition had risen by 122.87 percent since 2000.

"Under the former administration, CHED allowed the yearly increase in tuition and other fees to the detriment of millions of Filipinos who cannot afford the high price of education," Bernabe said.

"Based on Unesco's study in 2008, 73 percent of the youth are forced to dropout due to the unattainable price of Philippine education," he said.

Bernabe said that according to the Child Itself, 40 percent of high school graduates never make it to college and, according to the National Statistical Coordinating Board (NSCB), the average drop-out rate of college students was at 61.34 percent in 1994-2004.

"We urge the CHED to exercise its regulatory powers to stop schools/owners from raising tuition and other fees," he said. "We hope they'll be able to do their jobs, unlike what the previous head of CHED was not able to do."

Licuanan said that while students should realize that "quality education doesn't come cheap," the CHED would try to find "creative and feasible ways" to keep tuition from shooting through the roof.

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Disabled take plaints to CHR

By Tarra Quismundo

PERSONS with disabilities (PWDs) yesterday asked the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to uphold their rights to services like access to safe churches and to revoke 20-percent discounts on medicines they purchase.

Some 30 PWDs from different organizations filed separate complaints in the CHR yesterday and held dialogues with Commissioners Norberto de la Cruz and Loretta Ann Rosales.

Stamp access to the upper floors of the three-story CHR building has yet to be constructed.

"Mediamos aerevial ko PWDs, including children, with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), autism, seizures and other developmental disabilities who rely on their daily maintenance to stabilize their conditions," the complaint said.

Republic Act No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons grants PWDs a 20-percent discount on medicine purchases. The PWD groups complained that drugstores have refused to give them discounts, even if they presented their PWD ID cards, Quismundo said.

The groups also complained that an establishment in Quezon City's Cubao area refused to let them enter because they were in wheelchairs.

The group also complained that an establishment in Quezon City's Cubao area refused to let them enter because they were in wheelchairs.

Ramp access to the bridges of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in Quezon City and Marikina City and Marikina City and Marikina

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₱21-M Pagcor food order was over 6 months, says McDonald's

By Dazlen L. Lucas

THE LEGAL UNIT of globalfranchise chain McDonald's yesterday defended its deal with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) wherein the latter paid the former P21 million to supply food to police- men over a six-month period.

In a letter to the Inquirer, McDonald's Philippines said that it billed the state-owned gaming agency "only for products ordered and legitimately delivered."

"Official receipts were issued to Pagcor for the food orders," said McDonald's vice president for marketing Ma. Margarita B. Veros. "It must be noted that the dates indicated in the official receipts reflect the dates of payment and not necessarily the dates of the food deliveries."

Veros said that the food orders in question were covered by multiple transactions involving multiple stores. That was corroborated by a Pagcor official who spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to speak on the matter. The official explained that the food bills were for "assistance" given by the agency to the Philippine National Police during large-scale deployment of policemen to ensure peace and order during rallies and protest marches.

"Handling large food orders is nothing unusual for the company," Veros said. "Catering large food orders is among the services offered by McDonald's."

She explained that to facilitate taking large food orders, several stores may be assigned to prepare and deliver the food, depending on the quantity of the order, and all large food orders are placed in advance with a specific delivery schedule as requested by the customer.

"McDonald's is a reputable and responsible company which has been operating in the Philippines for almost 30 years," she said. "The company abides by all Philippine laws and regulations and will not be involved in any illegitimate transaction."

The new Pagcor management is reportedly set to probe the questionable P21 million worth of cheeseburgers and fried chicken for policemen by the agency.

The former Pagcor management issued a check for P21 million purportedly to reimburse McDonald's Divine Investment for the food.

SC upholds dismissal of suit vs Marcos 'pals'

By Norman Bordadora

THE SUPREME COURT has upheld the Sandiganbayan's dismissal of a complaint against the Philippine Village Hotel and several other corporations that allegedly served as dummies of the ill-gotten wealth of the family of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and their cronies.

In an 11-page decision penned by Associate Justice Roberto Abad, the high tribunal also affirmed the lifting of the sequestration orders against the corporations owned or controlled by the Enrique Zobel group.

Subjects of the decision are the assets of several corporations owned by alleged Marcos cronies Modesto Fontanilla, Trinidad Tan Enriquez, Rebecca Buencamino Erlinda Enriquez-Padilla, Leandro Escalona, Dan Perry, Roman Cruz Jr. and Gregorio Castillo.

Their corporations include Betanie Development Corp., Bernama Filipina Resorts Inc., Manila Int Development Corp., Ocean Villas Condominium Corp., Olac del Mar Development Corp., Philippine Village Hotel, Philwood Construction Corp., Puerto Azul Beach and Country Club Inc., Riviera International Hotel and Subi Dobbs Feed Services Inc.

The court ruled that the Presidential Commission on Good Government had not proved that the corporations constituted ill-gotten wealth.

"The complaint makes no allegation that respondent corporations had done some acts that violated a right vested by law in the government," read the decision of the high court's second division.

The PCGG on July 23, 1987 filed a complaint against the alleged Marcos cronies to recover what it says are ill-gotten wealth.

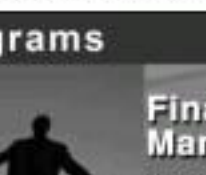
The government in October 1991 moved to include the corporations in the suit, claiming that they were used to amass ill-gotten wealth.

The Sandiganbayan on July 7, 2003, granted the motions filed by the respondent corporations to dismiss the complaint.

It also lifted the sequestration orders against the corporations.

The government caused its case to the Supreme Court.

But the Supreme Court said: "With all the sequestration orders, there is no clear showing of a prima facie case that the sequestered properties were ill-gotten wealth."



2 pilots cheat death in crash of PAF plane

By Jo-ann Aning and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PHILIPPINE Air Force (PAF) pilots escaped death after their training plane crashed in Concepcion, Tarlac, yesterday morning.

Pilot lieutenant Ishul Wilfredo Serrano and 1st Lt. Jose Wilfred Lucindan Mar Jimez were able to eject safely before their determined T-211 aircraft belonging to the PAF Air Defense Wing (ADW), crashed in a rug- ressive field at 11:06 a.m.

"The aircraft impacted a sugarcane field and did not pose any danger to lives and property. The pilots were properly rescued and airlifted back to Clark Air Base at around 11:40 a.m.," PAF public information director Lt. Col. Miguel Ernesto Okol said in statement.

He said the pilots were "doing well" after a medical checkup at the Air Force City Hospital at Clark.

Okol said the PAF chief Maj. Gen. Oscar Rebesia immediately formed an investigation team to determine the cause of the mishap.

All AS 211s belonging to the PAF were grounded pending results of the investigation, Okol said.

The AFM headquartered at Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, conducts routine training missions in Central Luzon air space.

The T-211 training plane crashed in the vicinity of Interim Military Training Area 1 in Barangay Cutcut, Concepcion, Tarlac.

In an interview with reporters, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr. said the trainer plane encountered "some mechanical problems" which might have caused the crash.

"Personally, the Air Force has formed a board of inquiry to look into the problem just in SOP for the Air Force to ground all similar aircraft involved in the mishap... needless to say, at this point in time, all T-211 planes are grounded," Mabanta told reporters in a briefing.

The aircraft, used mainly for training purposes, had also been deployed to troops in southern Philippines, particularly in Zamboanga and Central Mindanao, said Mabanta.

"With this incident, the modernization plan comes into review again... we really have to come up with a plan," he said.

Pay your loan before hitting GSIS, agency head tells critic

By Raissel W. Dutiangco

MANILA (UPDATE) Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS), yesterday advised a labor leader critical of him to "first pay the millions of pesos he owes the GSIS before continuing to attack the agency over his imagined gripes."

In a statement, Garcia did not name his critic, referring only to "a self-important, pseudo-labor leader."

The Public Trustee Herma, secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and a labor senator, criticized Garcia for failing to disclose whether or not the government pension fund had lost money on its global investments in structure products offered by the worldwide financial crisis. Herma also hit GSIS' new chief, former Negros Occidental Gov. Daniel Lacson, to investigate the matter.

Lacson did not address the issue of global investments in his statement.

However, he said he welcomed the appointment of Lacson as GSIS chief, "as well as any probes of the president Sandi's performance under his watch."

Lacson said the greatest fault performance had improved under his administration.

"During my watch, I exerted every effort to manage GSIS resources and assets in a prudent manner, fully aware that these have grown over the years from the contributions of our members," Garcia said.

"During my time, I made sure the reforms needed for prompt and efficient delivery of services to all our members and pensioners," he added.

Contrary to Herman's claims, Garcia said the GSIS under his leadership ensured that active members and pensioners enjoy various policy emergency and housing loans.

"Because of these reforms, the GSIS actuarial life—or the length of time it is expected for the needs of its members and pensioners—has been substantially extended," he said.

According to Garcia, GSIS data showed that in 2002, the life of the fund was projected to last only until 2028. By the end of 2009, the period was estimated to last until 2064.

"This tells us very clearly that GSIS will remain stable in the years to come and therefore government workers can expect the highest standards of service delivery from the system," Garcia said.

He cited among his achievements the clean-up by the GSIS of ghost employees and anomalous or long-dead beneficiaries.

Citizen presses suit vs Noli

By Philip C. Tubeza

A "CITIZEN SUIT" filed "out of time" is a ground for dismissal, but not an automatic ground for dismissal, said Noel in the affidavit he filed last Friday.

"In accusations of ethics, taxpayer and citizen, it is my patriotic duty to bring to the attention of the Honorable Office of the Ombudsman, as protector of the people, any act or omission of any public official which such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper or inefficient," he said.

Noel filed a criminal complaint against De Castro, in the latter's capacity as ex officio vice chair of Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC), and the four others with the Ombudsman on June 18 for approving the terms of two "questionable and highly suspicious" documents — the "memorandum of agreement" and a "compromise agreement" between National Housing Authority (NHA) and HGC, on the one hand, and R-II Builders.

Noel said the documents were a "bit incomplete" even if they were not signed and executed.

Besides the former vice president, the other respondents were former Finance Secretary Margarita B. Teves, in his capacity as ex-officio chair of HGC; Gonzalo Bengzon Jr., Bengzon as president of HGC; Rodolfo Lim as general manager of the NHA; and Reginaldo Ramos as chair of R-II Builders Inc.

"(The twin agreements) are mere sweetheart deals designed to conceal a grand scam, which have caused substantial and undue injury to the government and benefited only respondent Reginaldo Ramos to the grave and prejudice of the government," said Noel in his original complaint.

De Castro has denied any wrongdoing, saying that there was "no agreement and plan to sign any compromise agreement" with Ramos and "that it was an out-of-court settlement" that "is not yet final."

"Contrary to Noel's claim, there is no evidence that I have committed any act constituting gross inexcusable negligence or misconduct," De Castro said.

The Tuesday Gospel

Tuesday, July 20, 2010
16th Week in Ordinary Time

Apolinarius

1st Reading: Mic 7:14-15, 18-20
Gospel: Mt 12:46-50

While Jesus was still talking to the people, his mother and his brothers stood outside wanting to speak to him and they wanted outside. So someone said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are just outside; they want to speak with you."

Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he pointed to the disciples and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister, or mother."

Commentary

"Jesus answered, Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"

To know the heart and do the will of Jesus—to go through life as he went through life—is to be grafted to him, to become Jesus ourselves. Let's meditate.

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Insular Life

Honasan: Amnesty for Trillanes

From page A1

"The process would involve an executive grant of amnesty with concurrence of the majority of both houses of Congress," Honasan said.

Honasan, a former Army colonel, was himself a beneficiary of an amnesty after being implicated in three coup attempts—in 1986, 1987 and 1989—against then President Corazon Aquino.

Elected senator last, Honasan was also charged with rebellion in 2003 and with coup d'etat in 2006 after leading a mutiny of Presidential Guards Mascapagal Arroyo.

Aquino fires back

Mr. Aquino was off the campaign trail Monday when he reportedly ordered the justice department to review the coup case against the former Navy officer. He said it was his personal opinion that Trillanes was a victim of "injustice."

Mr. Aquino argued that members in the Senate's Blue Ribbon committee who had endorsed him for his order.

"I wrote the senators concerned to review the Revised Penal Code," he said in an interview, apparently referring to Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Juan Ponce Enrile and Edgardo Angara.

Senator Joel said that Mr. Aquino might have been a victim of a "hero schema."

"Senator Trillanes was charged with a crime the definition of which they, as lawyers, would be more conversant (with) than I am," Mr. Aquino said.

"But in reading that particular provision—as I have said often and enough—it seems that the fiscal, in evaluating the charge, should not have let the charge to prosper."

He added: "[There was a] total flaw in the preparation of the case as far as I'm concerned and that, again, is my personal opinion."

Penal code

The President said his statement should not be misconstrued as wholly exonerating Trillanes, who led a band of mutinous junior officers that took over Oakwood hotel in Makati City in 2003.

"No, no, no," he said. "Before the fiscal filed (the case) in court, my opinion is they should have modified the charges."

Mr. Aquino argued that members in the Revised Penal Code is it indicated that the takeover of a hotel, "which was what Oakwood was," constitutes a coup d'etat.

He said prosecutors should have "modified" the charge and instead accused Trillanes and company of sedition or rebellion.

"So Trillanes et al. did something (and) they would have to face up to it before the courts," he said. "You at the same time ... the government should be charging them appropriately and they should be incentivized for the appropriate charges."

Internal matter

Mr. Aquino said he described Trillanes' case as a form of "injustice" to the contrary of the senator who is calling for proper closure."

He said the justice department review was "internal" to the executive branch and not intended to influence the court's.

"We did not ... forward an opinion as to what should be the response of the court," he said. "We left it up to the wisdom of the court."

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the review of the Trillanes case "will also involve the other accused."

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Malacañang was out to control the Senate unit to move ahead or allowing Villanueva and the fugitive businessman Jun Ellis Lacson to attend the Senate sessions on July 26 and to vote for the next Senate President.

"He don't even have to run. Sus, it's a fact," Santiago said.

"What's the conclusion you can draw? That Malacañang wants to control the Senate," she said in a phone patch interview with reporters.

'Sold down the river'

Santiago warned that if Trillanes and Lacson appeared at the Senate on Monday, she would lead in protesting against any move to allow them to vote in the Senate presidential contest.

"I'll call for the halt of the proceedings. I will not support the outcome of the election if Trillanes and Lacson are made to vote or granted, let's say a furlough from detention, so they could cast their vote," said Santiago, who belongs to the bloc of Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., a contender of the Senate presidency.

Santiago said President Aquino was not only ill-advised about the Trillanes case but that his advisers had "sold (him) down the river."

Santiago joined Arroyo and Angara in questioning Mr. Aquino's order for the Department of justice to review the coup case of Trillanes.

She said efforts to release Trillanes through bail were "illegal and criminal" because the Makati Regional Trial Court and the Supreme Court had already denied it, regarding him as a "flight risk."

Sen. Vicente Sotto III said he would support the amnesty proposal of Honasan, willing is the "better alternative."

Review has started

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said her department had started the review of the coup case against Trillanes here added that the Makati Regional Trial Court, where the case is pending, would have the last say over the fate of the detained lawmaker.

"At this stage, the options for the prosecution may be limited, and the courts have absolute discretion in the disposal of a case once it has acquired jurisdiction over it," De Lima said in a statement.

De Lima said that, nonetheless, the justice department was already looking into the records of the case against Trillanes.

"[The] President has the absolute prerogative to direct the Secretary of Justice, as an alter ego, to review the case against Senator Trillanes. It is his prerogative and his call to do justice to every man," De Lima said.

"I will, however, exercise circumspection under the circumstances, given the independence of the judiciary," she added.

A spokesperson for the Magdalo veteran group, former Sen Fons Gr. Lt. Ashley Acedillo, told reporters that Trillanes was willing to attend Mr. Aquino's State of the Nation Address (Sona) even handcuffed to senate employees he was not to escape.

"He is not asking to be released. He just wants a chance to go to the Senate, file his measures and work like other senators... He is willing to be handcuffed to give the assurance that he will not do anything to cause trouble," Acedillo said.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Jeannette I. Andrade

HONASAN

TRILLANES

Aquino stands by Abads; where's the honeymoon?

From page A1

appointed chief of staff of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. Abad's wife Gloria is the representative of the lone district of Bataan, who repeatedly wants to be the vice chair of the House appropriations committee.

Certain lawmakers have voiced their concern about having members of the same family in key government positions.

Lawmaker belonging to Lakas Kampi CMD on Sunday said that he was worried about one family taking control of the government's budget.

The House appropriations committee, the General Appropriations Act, the budget secretary disburses the funds (including pork barrel funds), the PMS head disburses the President's pork barrel, and the chief of staff has the ear of the finance secretary, he said.

Standing by Abads

But the President stood by the Abads, saying he "did not violate any law obviously."

"I'm confident that they will demonstrate their capabilities and their qualification that made me decide to put them in place," Mr. Aquino told reporters.

He described Abad as a "tireless worker and longtime colleague" who will had to go through the usual selection process before he could get the budget portfolio.

Summa cum laude

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said Luis graduated summa cum laude from Ateneo de Manila University, who was also named one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines in the past.

Edna, 31, supposedly got the second most influential PMS portfolio owing to her stint in 98. Aquino's chief of staff while he was in the Senate.

"I hope [critics] would also point out that in Secretary Abad's long [years] in public service, was he ever accused of any wrongdoing?" Mr. Aquino said.

STANDING BY THE ABADS: President Aquino shakes Michiel Abad after Monday's oath-taking ceremony at the League of City Mayors of the Philippines in Malacañang. —PHOTO BY

Lacierda asked Ateneans to go by the Abads' performance in discharging months before issuing a hasty over their collective appointments to the executive branch.

"Let's see in the next few months how they fare and I guarantee you that they will be just as competent and their integrity will be just as intact," he said at a press briefing.

Lacierda said the Abads' competence and integrity "will prove them up."

He added that the President had so much trust in the Abads. "You must remember (that) when you're choosing Cabinet members, you have to have the trust and confidence of the President," Lacierda said.

Hontiveros-Baraquel noting strong with four of her faculty's members serving in government, indicating that she does not intend to ask her children to resign from their positions.

The representative said she wanted to join the House appropriations committee, which handles the budget submitted by the President.

Asked if she would advise her daughter and son to leave the government, Hontiveros said her children were already adults.

"My children are of age. I have brought up my children to be competent, to be honest," she told reporters.

Blown out of proportion

Pressed if she would not do it out of delicadeza, the lawmaker said the matter was being blown out of proportion.

"Why, what is delicadeza? I think sometimes maybe the issue is being made bigger," she said.

She also noted that her husband was serving at the pleasure of Mr. Aquino, and could be removed if he was not performing well.

Credentials

Hontiveros said her family's credentials could speak for themselves.

"We have always advocated good governance, so people can look at how we perform. So in the end our performance would also speak for itself," she said.

As for perceptions that the Abads were so powerful that they were getting juicy positions, Hontiveros said this was the view of only a few people.

In pushing to join the appropriations committee, she said budgets experts had always been one of her advocacies even before she became a lawmaker. Her advocacies are similar with that of her husband, she added.

Group pursuing reforms

The Abads are members of the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance or (INNTIGov), a group dedicated to pursuing reforms and moulding leaders that would implement them.

The Liberal Party of Aquino, to which Abad belongs, reported in early the appropriations committee, since it is one of the key committees in the House.

Liberal Party officials earlier said they expected to name party stalwart Cavite Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya as appropriations committee chair.

WHO ARE THE ABADS?

BUDGET Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad is a former representative of Bataan. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1987, and again in 1998, 1998 and 2001.

He served as agrarian reform secretary in the first Aquino administration, and was appointed education secretary in 2001 by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Abad was a member of the Hyatt 10, a group of officials who resigned from the Arroyo Cabinet in July 2005. He served as general campaign manager of the Liberal Party in the May elections.

He was educated at Ateneo de Manila University, receiving degrees in business management and in law. He passed the bar in 1981. He received his master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 1984 as a fellow of the Edward Mason Program in Public Policy and Management.

His wife Gloria Diño Rãmos Abad served as Bataan representative in 2004 and was reelected to the same post in May.

She was vice economics at Mary-Knoll Quirino Memorial College before taking up studies for a master's degree in applied anthropology and sociology at Ateneo de Manila University. She studied at Harvard a year after her husband graduated, and completed the same master's degree in public administration.

The couple's daughter, Julia, served as chief of staff of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile for three years as senator. She is now chief of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS).

Julia earned her bachelor's degree in Communications in Ateneo, and completed her studies in public policy as a Fulbright scholar at Harvard.

She served as program officer of the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium and as a consultant of The Rockefeller Foundation's Learning and Access for Students, which became a beneficiary of Google Grants.

Julia also worked as a writer for Ayala Foundation, as an executive assistant of then Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman before the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal, and as "citizen participation intern" of the Working Group for Electoral Democratic Initiative. She received English from Ateneo de Manila University in 2006.

Julia's brother, Luis, was chosen by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima for his chief of staff. Luis received his bachelor's degree in economics from Ateneo in 2002 and his master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The Abads have been part of Bataan politics as Liberal Party members. Abad's maternal grandfather became governor in 1986. Hontiveros's parents became Bataan representatives in the 1960s and 1980s.

Hontiveros and Hontiveros were involved in the protests during the Marcos regime. He was detained as a prisoner of conscience in 1974 and 1980. Hilda Hontiveros, Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, Office of the Press Secretary website, Ateneo de Manila University website

Sarmiento appointed Pagcor chief

From page A1

the 21 officials whose appointments Malacañang announced yesterday.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa said Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima was now the government representative to the Monetary Board.

Sought for comment, Sarmiento said he would consider the offer.

Aquino's marching order to clean up Pagcor before its eventual privatization.

"I will help the chairman put the house in order," he told the Inquirer. "We will look into it and adopt the necessary solution to remedy the problems."

Sarmiento cited the President's observation that the government might not have been receiving its rightful share from Pagcor's revenues during the last nine and half years under the Arroyo administration.

Revenue sharing

"There are a lot of issues and questions about how much the government was supposed to get in terms of revenues," he said.

Sarmiento noted that 5 percent of Pagcor's earnings automatically went to the Bureau of Internal Revenue as franchise tax.

As per its charter, Pagcor is supposed to give the remaining 95 percent to other agencies such as the National Treasury (50 percent), Philippine Sports Commission (5 percent), and the Board of Claims (1 percent).

Also a recipient is the President's Social Fund, which amounts to around P7 billion.

Local governments hosting Pagcor casinos also get a fixed amount for their respective community development projects," according to the agency's company profile.

Sarmiento also served as deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration from 1989 to 1991, port-master general of the Philippine Ports Corp. from 1991 to 1993, and Presidential Commission on Good Government commissioner from 1999 to 2000.

He holds a political science diploma and a law degree from the University of the Philippines. He was also part of the senior fellows program of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

13 officials sworn in

Coinciding with Sarmiento's appointment was the oath-taking of 13 officials before the President in Hacad Hall in Malacañang on the afternoon.

They were Interior Undersecretary Jose Vicente Salazar, Transportation Undersecretaries Antonio Bautista, Librito Jose and Jimmy Velasco, and acting Transport Assistant Secretary Estefanno Pardo Jr.

Manuel Garay Imperial is the acting executive director of the Toll Regulatory Board, while Rosencie Lorenzo is the new administrator of the Philippine Industry Authority.

The Philippine Ports Authority has a new general manager in Joey Sta. Ana, and assistant general managers in Raul Santos and Teresa Cuales. Emilia Bates is the new deputy commissioner for legal of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Castanillo Arcilla is the acting executive director of the Civil Aeronautics Board, while Michel Mantha is now a board member at the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

JORGE Sarmiento: New Pagcor COO

Rains falling but Caloocan folk ask: Where's the water

By Beverly T. Mendridal

THOSE HAD HOPE that torrential rains over the weekend, as many residents of Caloocan City do not understand why water has been scarce in their area since last week.

Nevertheless, many of them were seen busily filling their pails and empty water jugs up and down Sangandaan Road just to draw water from a hose at the Philippine National Railway (PNR) property along the main thoroughfare.

Sonia Lungayan, 51, a vendor, said the lack of water had been hard for her family since they could not normally go about their cooking and laundry.

And how dare without an advisory on the water schedule from Maynilad has become too much, she said.

Lungayan said she endured long hours at the PNR just so she, her husband and their young baby could take a bath.

Living up at the PNR, she said, took over five hours as many residents flocked to the only available water source in the area.

Myrna Linico, 40, a beauty salon owner on Sangandaan Road, said her business had already been affected by the lack of water supply.

Yesterday, she said she had to make do with a pail of water to rinse a customer's hair with hair rebonding chemicals.

"I cannot even wash her hair twice," said Linico.

She said her employees had to draw water from a common hose the only hall which is about another busy ride away from Sangandaan just so they could open for business.

Although some areas in Makati have yet to feel the water rationing of Maynilad, building administrator Rhelvis Nacario assured residents of Santillan condominium in Barangay Pio del Pilar that they were prepared in case of a water shortage.

"Even if there's water shortage, our stock can still supply our residents with water for one night," Nacario told the Inquirer.

Jose Enriquez, an engineer living in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City, said she still had water supply at her house as of 4 p.m. on Monday even if Maynilad's advisory said the water supply in Bangkal would be cut last week 2 p.m. to 4 a.m. everyday until July 23.

Doris Medina, supervisor at a laundry shop on Gloria Roxas Avenue said the shop has installed shocking up on water operations if the current water rationing.

"Of course, we will be affected. Our services will be delayed and we cannot operate without water," Medina said.

Leni Arroyo, 71, a resident of Las Piñas, said he did not have to do anything drastic because he, like perhaps any other residents in the city, had a water tank installed in his house in El Nicanor.

"My tank can hold about 1000 gallons of water, and this should be enough for three days," he told the Inquirer over the phone. With reports from Nikko Dizon and Mike Marcelo

Water crisis may worsen

From page A1

The dam supplies more than 90 percent of the domestic water supply of Metro Manila, home to some 12 million people.

Jacie Sevilla, head of Manila Water's corporate communications, said water availability and pressure would be significantly reduced in the succeeding days until rewards to conserve water at Angat until the rains could refill the dam.

The "impact on our customers with the continuing supply reduction will be as bad as Maynilad if we don't practice responsible and wise usage of water now," Sevilla said last night.

Manila Water operates and gets its supply from the La Mesa reservoir in Novaliches, Quezon City, which receives water from Maynilad gets its water directly from Angat, which also provides water for irrigation in Bulacan.

As of 6 months, 10 percent of Maynilad's customers, equivalent to 458,000 people, were already severely affected by the dam's low water level, said Herbert Consunji, chief operating officer of Maynilad.

These people have access to water supply for only up to six hours a day. Consunji said as a briefing yesterday.

Water supply is available to 29 percent of Maynilad's customers for five to 12 hours and 51 percent are still enjoying a 13- to 24-hour service, he said.

Level continues to drop

Consunji said the water level at Angat continued to fall, and was already at 157.65 meters above sea level (masl) as of yesterday morning, lower than the dam's lowest level at 158.15 masl in September 1998, an El Niño year.

Bunyong did not significantly increase the level as it added only 20 centimeters of water to Angat. Typhoon "Gaemi" is expected to add only 7 cm.

Over the past few months, the water level at the dam, had fallen below the critical level of 160 meters above sea level (masl).

At 120 masl, no water can be made available to Metro Manila.

Pichael Benito Nario, Comwap said Maynilad expected the water level to fall to 147 masl by September.

This would result in half of Maynilad's customers (equivalent to 4.23 M) or more than 3.1 million people) getting only a six-hour water service should the company fail to implement mitigating measures.

So many leaks

Mr. Aquino said he was still awaiting the official briefing from agencies such as the NDRRMC, DPWH and DOST before a crisis could be declared.

He said he had heavy rain that broke on the lack of sufficient rainfall to replenish water in the dam, Angat had "so many leaks."

"Our proposal was to allow private investors to come in for rehabilitation work, but this is still in the nascent stages," he said. "There are a lot of proposals but we do not want things, which, if you think about it, are very fantastic."

BOT scheme

In the case of the proposal to have a private company rehabilitate Angat Dam, Mr. Aquino said the government has to make sure that the effort would be on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme and without sovereign guarantees.

"Most of them are still being fleshed out," he said. "Last week, foreign and local investors were meeting, saying they were willing to undertake all of these needed water security" Maynilad plans to implement more aggressive anti-gaming measures to address the water shortage.

It has sought the help of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the regulator, to increase the company's water allocation to as much as 75 percent from the present 60 percent. Concurrently, Manila Water gets 40 percent.

The bill presses members to an allowance of 12,000 million liters per day (mld), but this had been reduced to about 1,600 mld due to the continued water levels at Angat Dam.

While a 75 percent allocation, Consunji said this would allow Maynilad to secure 1,800 mld supply even as the water level receded to 147 masl.

He said Manila Water was already amenable to the idea.

Joint use of La Mesa

Maynilad is also seeking joint use of La Mesa Dam and government subsidies for privatization of the Angat hydroelectric power plant to meet any possible long-term water supply issues.

For now, Maynilad said it would continue to get additional water (water from outside Angat Dam) and has been pumping water to its 12 M to water rationing operations, temporarily drawn additional treated water from the East Zone, install four more static water tanks, and beef up call center operations.

"Until our water allocation increases and water level on Angat Dam improves, we do not see our water service levels improving significantly," Maynilad said.

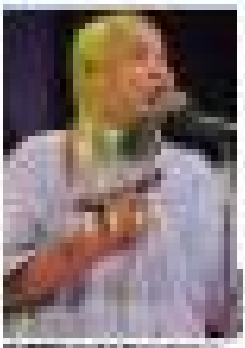
Help from Manila Water

Based on meetings yesterday with MWSS OIC Marcia Cruz, Manila Water agreed to provide assistance to Maynilad by doing the following:

- Offering tankering services for Mayni lad as an immediate relief for the affected customers.
- Supplying 16 million liters per day of treated water at the cross boundaries to Commonwealth and New avenues and Elisa, in San Juan, Antipolo and Sucat.
- Assisting (with Maynilad) the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Soils and Water Management for cloud seeding operations in Angat.

Manila Water said it was also affected by El Niño but efficiency gains as a result of its 11 billion-liter efficiency gains as a result of its 11 billion-liter efficiency gains as a result of its 11 billion-liter

Ex-journalist gate-crashes RP



cinema in search of salvation

China cracks down on TV dating shows

Slip of activist kit accidental?

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Just punishment

EDITORIAL

IT IS UNFORTUNATE that President Aquino expressed the opinion that detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV may have been a victim of injustice since most prosecutors could have erred in filing a case of coup d'etat against him. Unfortunate because various motives are being ascribed to Mr. Aquino's statements, one of them being that Trillanes would be freed so that he could vote for the President's ally, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, for Senate president. As Sen. Edgardo Angara has said, the timing is so close to the coming election of the Senate president as to be suspect.

Senators Joker Arroyo and Angara said that Mr. Aquino's order was tantamount to meddling in the judiciary and the Senate, two government entities that are independent of the Executive under the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

It is possible that President Aquino, who has been described by Angara as a "well-meaning person" and who is known for his sense of justice, was misinformed by what he considered a possible miscarriage of justice in the case of Trillanes. In addition to the charge of coup d'etat, Trillanes is also facing a rebellion charge on account of his participation in the siege of the Peninsula Hotel in 2007. The cases against Trillanes have dragged for seven years, and all the while he has been detained and has not even been allowed to attend the sessions of the Senate although he won a seat in it on the votes of 11 million of his countrymen.

As the President himself has said, he is no lawyer, and he should have left it to the lawyers, the judges and the proper government entities to act more speedily on Trillanes' case. And Trillanes' case should not have been singled out. There are other officers facing charges in court like those involved in the Peninsula siege and the Marine standoff in 2006. If Trillanes' case is to be reviewed, why not review also the cases of the other officers?

Arroyo and Angara have said that the President cannot interfere in a judicial matter. Now that the Trillanes case is in court, the Executive cannot and should not interfere in the case. The President, despite his personal feelings, should just wait for the court to make its decision; if he considers it unfair, the decision can always be appealed to a higher court. There are remedies and corrective measures inherent in the judicial system. If after the case has been appealed to the Supreme Court and the decision still does not satisfy the President's sense of justice, he could always grant a pardon or commute the sentence.

The trial court would do well to take note of the statements of retired Commodore Rex Robles, who said that the President's opinion on the Trillanes case was not incongruous with the recommendations of the Feliciano Fact-Finding Commission, which investigated the root causes of the Oakwood mutiny. Trillanes was one of the leaders of the Oakwood mutiny. Robles, a member of the commission, said that there should be punishment, "but it must fit the offense."

We also believe there must be punishment, but it should not be similar to the 28 pardons that then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos ordered for the 400 soldiers who took over the Manila Hotel in July 1986 and tried to install former President Ferdinand Marcos' running mate, Arturo M. Tolentino, as acting president. That was a ridiculous farce of punishment, and it possibly encouraged renegade soldiers to mount several other attempts to seize power from then President Corazon Aquino.

While it may be said that the case against Trillanes is "a political case," his actions being directed against then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo whom he and his colleagues charged with corruption, he should not be allowed to get off lightly by the new administration. Trillanes' case may set a precedent, and in the future, Mr. Aquino himself may face a similar situation. How then will he react?

Neither should the punishment be very severe, practically incapacitating a person who could render service to the nation in the legislature. It should be a just punishment that must fit the crime and serve also as a warning to other military officers and soldiers that even in the event of a change in administration they cannot escape punishments for crimes committed against public order.

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Shekel power

VIEWPOINT

Jean L. Mercado

"CORRUPTION HAS never been completely," British parliamentarian Anthony Eden wrote. So, what will President Aquino do with the Manny Pacquiao donation?

The Philippines ranked 111, out of 178 countries, gauged by Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

The Supreme Court forbade Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos' children to wealth, exhausted from feasting royally. Imelda ran for Congress. "The ill-gotten" was not prosecuted. Theft of billions established ... without a shed. Poetic justice?

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez found no one liable for the P1.6 billion MegaPacific computer election scam. Crime without criminals. Only in da Pilipins.

Mr. Aquino resembles across gulf, everywhere. He, gross treat to Dmd was 86 percent; Arroyo, Washington Post: "Approval treat in Aquino could be stilled not only very broad but also very deep."

Ordinary are conferred to beat back grafters, tossing those are whistle-blowers who rob jobs, contractors, sometimes life, to expose crime. Like the person who slipped Mr. Aquino a CD-page (in edit) of the Hacienda Report.

Memo by Sec Ada. Mains Mariano, the report probed into sales of generals in 2006's famed election. Generals Hermogenes Esperon, Roy Cimatu, Delfin Dalisoso and Romeo Galdos have retired.

The Arroyo regime scrapped the report "top secret." But Mr. Aquino pledged full disclosure and action. History is on his side.

Daniel Ellsberg leaked to the New York Times and Washington Post the Pentagon Papers. That compelled a review of the Vietnam war. President Richard Nixon invoked the Espionage Act of 1917 and got injunctions to gag Ellsberg and newspapers.

"The injunctions were unconstitutional prior restraints." The US Supreme Court held by a 6-3 vote. "Government failed to meet the heavy burden of proof required for prior restraints."

What if the Hacienda Report leaks or is blocked from release? Would the Aquino regime be shamed, as Supreme Court back transparency, as the American high court did?

Journalist Marites Dañguilan Vitug provides leads in her new book "Project 2000: Confronting the Legacy of the GMA Regime." Vitug wrote the earlier banned-widening book, "Shadow of Doubt: Probing the Supreme Court."

Ms. Aquino inherits "a Court led by her former aide and packed with her appointees, most of whom have shown allegiance to her," Vitug notices. She sends a newly banned when Corona voted his wife as chief justice. "The halting of an oath-taking, a very public act, says much," Vitug says. "Corona's conduct actually shows a weak limit toward transparency and disclosure of information."

Aquino's former chief of staff voted in favor of government secrecy in keeping-open the computerized 2TE 8320 million National Broadband Network and executive privileges for Romulo Neri. Lawyer Bautista denies disclosure of detailed information by the Commission on Elections of technical preparations on the outcome of polls. In 2008, he backed those who would stop the airing of the "Hello, Garci" tapes.

"Governments steer events as environments that encourage, instead of penalize, citizens who show democratic morality," declared 130 members at the 9th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Durban, South Africa. The Philippines dutifully signed that document.

A decade after Durban, "the kind and extent of support for a legitimate whistle-blower dwindled," the author-lawyer-columnist-author," says the Asian Institute of Management study "Whistle-Blowing in the Philippines: Awareness, Attitudes and Structures."

Whistle-blowers here are threatened, harassed or murdered.

Take three high-profile cases. Area Ramirez exposed Lintel funds tax scandals. SBI supervisor Neri Jantoni tries to police things while customs gunned on President Macapagal-Arroyo's smile. That phony up squelched a clean, mind potential whistle-blowers. Until the day she left Malacañang, Arroyo never apologized.

Rodgin Philip Bernardo refused to allow head-leg of illegal lumber and drains on BFS licensed in 1995. Suicide, the Navy ruled within 14 hours after his body was found. Murder, concluded a probe, led by the late Senator Presidential Blue-ribbonist.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez refused to arrest the painters of Pornado. But Justice Secretary Leila de Lima confers with them today. De Lima earlier released the Maute ruling of the UN Commission on Human Rights saying that Pornado's murder "was not justifiable in the State in Party" (i.e. the Philippines). The case has been prosecuted for a crime committed with impunity. The commission asks the Philippines to "undertake enforceable remedies" and informs the UN "within 180 days of steps taken."

Whistle-blowers, like terrorist Lalaine Sarmiento against global powers. For over a decade, he skewered error studded textbooks. The colorations department turned a 20-page booklet into a 200-page tome. Sarmiento and his colleagues correcting more than 100 errors found in 10 English textbooks. So she pinpointed errors in socio-science textbooks.

Publishers and foreign officials chose upgraded a smear campaign against Go. Accused On "the right of truth," the Philippine Free Counsel asked. Go's expenditure were tapered. The failure or self-regulation by individual newspapers fractures editorial codes.

Rushed power will seek to undercut P-Noy's pledge to expand the "witness protection" a system that boosts the crooks who crucified those who seek fair play. Our grandchildren are at stake here.

* * *

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Justice

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know that Antonio Trillanes is a victim of injustice.

Maybe the Oakwood Mutiny wasn't a coup attempt. It cannot be out of the realm of possibility of overthrowing government, if that was indeed its intention—its leaders kept denying it before the media—were alone in all. It had little support from the mainstream military, not to speak of the public. But it was costly, and violent, nonetheless. There is no choice or way to call occupying a building and threatening at least, if not actually going at, to defend it with arms. It was nearly to every sense of the word, and though the bullet holes in the newly refurbished Oakwood Center have been patched up, the traces of them are still there for those who know where to look.

The mutineers insisted before TV their action was merely meant to highlight the miserable conditions of the AFP rank-and-file, but they were not bereft of other means to do it. They could have brought their grievances to the fora, as it were, whichever gave better exposure. Doubtless that would have been less dramatic and would not have guaranteed results, or even just being listened to. But the mutiny did not get them listened to either, or produce results. And the price was the deaths of dozens.

The case who might have been a victim of injustice is Danilo Lim.

At the very least the difference between Lim's call for the generals to withdraw support from GMA and Trillanes' mutiny was that Lim wasn't done by force of arms. Though clearly as far as implications go, it had far more sweeping ones than the other generals joined him in so in name without an OMA, but regime might have fallen. That was the reason, far more than "Hello, Garci," for many Filipinos got to believe GMA to be dirt, having backed it. And that was the reason he lost badly in the last elections. Lim's action is not being an unpopular one.

But that is the least of it. There is a second, far more important, difference: which is why I agree completely with Lim's prompt release after Nonoy Aquino rose to power.

That is that Lim took his action against an illegitimate president while Trillanes took his against a legitimate one. The sublime irony here is that GMA was perfectly legitimate after she became president without benefit of election and perfectly illegitimate after she became so with the benefit of one. GMA was the duly constituted ruler after John II. You might argue that Erap continued to do as well throughout GMA's first term, but he couldn't convince anyone, except his backers.

That was because Erap exercised. Truth-less, it was not unprovoked. He claimed that the best soldier had literally become a last soldier because the money for his boots was being pocketed by the generals. More than that, he claimed that the generals, with the knowledge and blessings of Malacañang, were in collusion with the Abu Sayyaf, making a killing, also quite literally in guaranteeing and kidnapping. But very light charges there. But again he had no lack of means to prove that one other than declaring a building in Mindanao.

You accept that a pressing need to solve a problem of the AFP justifies a mutiny, you are not going to lack for them even in P-Noy's time. The landscape in the AFP are not going to disappear overnight, and P-Noy was always be accused of coddling them if they continue to make hay while the sun shines. Corruption will always be deeply ingrained in an institution that boasts arms. People who wield tremendous power but are poorly paid will always try to make up for it by mining, or measuring means. Mutinies will always be a risk.

Lim's action on the other hand took place well after "Hello, Garci" and the country was up in arms against GMA's coup, a coup wrought by fake ballot rather than by real ballot, but a coup, nevertheless. A perception borne out repeatedly by the surveys: Most Filipinos did not consider her a rightful president. Efforts to find redress by law, specifically with impeachment, were thwarted by a crooked Congress. And indeed, as in Ferdinand Marcos' time, the law in GMA's time was merely a tool with which to foil justice. Was Lim's withdrawal of support, which was really a coup to undo a coup, justified in light of all that?

You bet it was. Unsay sits the crown on the head of the an unelected, and ought to.

Should Trillanes be released in the same way that Lim has been released?

The first part is unequivocally.

The way I see it, Trillanes can be released on either of two grounds. One is that he has done his time, which is all of seven years, his sentence contained for good behavior. He hasn't escaped, attempted escape, or been found to have created except because of time served or presidential pardon. The second is that he was convicted of a crime that is not considered heinous. He is not guilty of murder, rape, or plunder. He is guilty of rebellion

'Edifice complex' and readers' pet peeves

AS ONE would expect, readers were forthcoming about their own list of pet peeves with government officials and politicians, in response to my piece on wang-wangs and politicians' attitude on banquets and other public property. Some even sent photographs, especially of school buildings in a state by governors with a prominent politician's name permanently etched on them and those artifices of reader volunteered: "One notorious case in point is [a province adjacent to Metro Manila], where virtually all new government buildings, be it a school, a barangay hall, practically all wedding arcade and basketball courts, have been dubbed with the name of the governor." Another reader mentions that a politician does this because (a) he doesn't want people to forget him, (b) he needs to choose himself, or (c) it bolsters/ups/inflates a deadbeat's name.

President Aquino has indicated that emergency vehicles like fire trucks and ambulances need not be covered by the wang-wang ban. But an observant reader who has lived in Las Piñas and now lives in La Union writes about an irritating practice he calls silip (for "blow by ambulance"). He writes: "In a Las Piñas ambulance, I marveled the General Bonifacio Avenue traffic enforcers' ability to never cringed to attain no how many ambulances traveled the same route, same time, always green blazing. I almost felt as if I were a member of the Doctor Bata-Cardiona lifting-ex, ambulance society... except I didn't have a wang-wang. Many times it was easy to see that there was no patient aboard, still the siren would wail nonetheless." In a La Union resident now he senses that he continues to "enjoy the daily ambulance parade—siren of course blaring away" from his home alongside the highway. So in Las Piñas, these same ambulances would be seen in La Union, or vice versa, only the municipalities have changed. Now we have budjets, Tupadis, Catalon OIG, etc., all in a rush to get to San Fernando; it is coincidence that they all seem to make the return trip north—again, only don't know the hurry of traffic rules. The reader blames the laxity of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in granting driver's licenses and to administering driver's tests. He writes: "It's time we put in place an lesson on guidance & coaching mechanism and software even just a note-taking [for] exceptions to our tests."

Readers inevitably return to the topic, ever our lifelines, that P-Noy can finally do something to change all of this. On the politicians' "edifice complex" and propensity for marking public property with their names and images on public property. He could set the example as President and now that he will never have his face or name on any government vehicle, edifice, etc. to announce "this is a project of P-Noy." Some readers suggest that there must be a law prohibiting naming of public property after anyone or projects funded with taxpayers' money. Someone expressed the hope that Congress would decree this practice as no different from graft (wishful thinking?), and that the full penalties be attributed to it, with current and past offenders given at most three months to remove their names from government facilities. Still others suggest that citizens spearhead a chastise campaign so that politicians will stop the abuse practices. Some suggested a tactic where people can post photos of all those disgusting signs and facilities labelled with public names' names for all the world to see.

A reader summed it all up with the observation that the simple move by President Aquino to ban and avoid using wang-wangs himself brings to prance the biblical truth that those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who seek posterity at the back will be the first to be called up. He closed: "It may be a small gesture of public courtesy by P-Noy, but a great relief for the common man."

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A dilemma in Boracay

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PRESIDENT Aquino has already drawn the new chief of the Civil Aeronautics Board of the Philippines (CAAP), reportedly a retired Air Force general. The CAAP heads the Air Transportation Organization, oversees the technical and safety aspects of air travel, including the air-worthiness of planes and the safety of airports.

The appointment of an experienced aviator is expected as a step in the right direction, given the many problems bedeviling Filipino planes and airports that have been brought to the foreground by the Cebu Pacific plane crash in Cagayan de Oro and the crash-landing of a Philippine Airlines plane at the Naia due to faulty navigation systems. But there is one area where the new CAAP chief will have a "midnight appointment" to the CAAP of President Aquino, appointed on the day before the ban on midnight appointments took effect, but "signed" to exhibit a touching imagination. Transportation and Communications Secretary Jose "Joey" Abaya announced last week. But after a few days, Ill. Jason Cua, who used to be general manager of the airport authority and who was already playing musical chairs with the position, was named director in the CAAP when she was about to vacate the office. (Not to mention, though, given previous experience with CAAs, not to mention the dread of the appointees' many officers who have been in the service should have been left to the incoming administration, and especially since he was and is aware that he is unqualified for the position, not having been a pilot or aviator, after all, managing an airport, or even having the technical background for ensuring the safety of planes and of airports.

* * *

HERE'S a story which may or may not be related to Cua's determination to hold on to the CAAP post.

I was recently in Boracay flying to that island, mean island via Iloilo which transports the most number of passengers in Boracay through the Godofredo Ramos Airport in Caticlan, Aklan.

Last year, after a series of mishaps involving larger planes, Caticlan Airport was closed for repairs, and what it was re-opened, only SCAT, which uses smaller aircraft, was allowed (until mixed access to Caticlan. But recently, the CAAP once more opened Caticlan's runway to bigger planes, and I was curious to observed, "nothing has changed." There were indeed plans to expand the runway, and even possibly raising or "narrowing" the hill as one end at the runway to accommodate bigger planes, but Phil. Cebu Pacific and Zest Airways, for instance of pursuing raised by environmentalists and tourism functionaries from Boracay, some of those plans have even broken ground. So why were bigger aircraft allowed to land and take off from Caticlan?

Paradoxically, Iloilo, which has no enviable safety record despite holding the most flights to Boracay (up to 12 flights daily during peak times last year), was penalized, while the CAAP authority recently grounding the airline's LEVAIR, requiring the installation of two additional exit doors on each aircraft.

BECAUSE of the popularity of Boracay as a destination for both local and foreign tourists, Caticlan and Iloilo airports have become among the busiest airports in the country.

Safety is the main concern, but it also has its limitations. One is the distance from Caticlan, which requires passengers to take a bus ride more than an hour away and then negotiate their way through the jampacked pier to get to the vessels would make flying directly to Caticlan and taking the short boat ride to the Boracay pier.

A pilgrim of Boracaynon has reportedly run locked on a P2.5 billion upgrade of Caticlan, which includes developing a nearby site, supposedly to include a hotel, mall and even theme park.

The problem is what to do with the hill, which is the reason Caticlan's runway cannot be lengthened materially. When the development group said it planned to "tear down" the hill, environmentalists, members of the Boracay Foundation raised escalation.

Geologists have warned that saving the hill could have untold consequences, as it could change the direction and power of the wind and affect the flow of water, thereby compromising the unique powder fine sand on Boracay's famous white beach. Long-time observers point to the erosion of a portion of the long beach after excavating of rocks on the Station 3 side of the beach to make way for a private development.

The construction of a resort on the other end of the beach, on Station 1, presumably altered the course of the tides and washed away the sand on that spot, causing another resort to "lose" its beach.

* * *

HOWEVER, given the many unknown factors in Boracay's and Caticlan's fragile environment, the best step at this stage is to do nothing. Or at least, to wait until more scientific, geological and environmental studies have been conducted by unbiased, professional organizations and have definitively established the safety of the island being suggested in improve Caticlan's status.

Otherwise, government, businessmen and the citizens of Aklan and Boracay risk killing the "golden goose" of the tourism traffic this island gets.

Meantime, government and the private sector can join hands to do something for Caticlan. This is to improve the facilities of the tiny, cramped airport, which even with its present, limited airport but is woefully inadequate. Just making tourists more comfortable as they enter and leave would go a long way towards improving Boracay's prospects.

What are you doing in the Senate, Migz?

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

IN JOHANNES, Indonesia, where I did some research over the weekend, we can find several words to what, for lack of a better term, we can call the "Tell of Sinnan Complex." Someone afflicted with that complex tends to ask: Why do we celebrate our defeats? And tends to add, indignantly: He must've the only winner in the game who does that.

Actually, no. In Indonesia, I know Day is marked on Nov. 10, the date hallowed by tradition as the start, in 1945, of the battle of Surabaya. In fact, Indonesia's Heroes' Day is known as the day of the remaining Japanese soldiers, and between the pounds and the British forces perceived as preparing the way for the return of the Dutch, the former colonial rulers. And Independence Day, since September 17, 1945, when Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta declared Indonesia's independence, has been a major offensive against the colonizers. The ensuing battle lasted almost an entire month, with superior Allied weapons and numbers finally overwhelming the Indonesian "arek-arek Surabaya." The entire equipped, under-trained youth volunteers of Surabaya, fought so bravely, so valiantly, that no one could any longer doubt, not even the Dutch, that the Indonesian were ready to be "free and fearless." Surabaya proved to be the beginning of the end.

* * *

The 2013 elections, by and large, were a success, even if there were reports of vote-buying, intimidation, violence in the power of electricity to effect change. It is only right, however, to recognize that the voters constituency that had risen to the elections, especially as reflected in the presidential votes, to the point where it was the 2007 polls. The overwhelming opposition tide even lifted certain "brilliant" losers—and Koko Pimentel's son.

Early last month, the Senate Electoral Tribunal issued a shameful resolution, numbered 07-149, that even in its intellectual dishonesty and drama-like going through the motions character could not hide the fact that, as it pulled the rug from under the voters' real choice and appreciative proceedings showed that the 14 May 2007 election in certain pilot areas designated by Pimentel was characterized by grave irregularities."

In fact, Zubiri has had his day in court. That's what Resolution 07-149 is all about. To Pimentel's original protest contesting the results of 2,000 precincts in 44 municipalities in seven provinces, Zubiri filed a counter-protest, alleging he was elected in 73,260 precincts—almost throughout the country. Under SET rules, 25 percent of each party's estimate of final number of precincts are targeted for initial revision. Pimentel's original protest covered only a quarter of that, and the total count recovered over a quarter of a million votes. The SET conducted its questions rules on Zubiri's initial set, and directed the 50 percent be begin the revision.

The key passage in the majority decision reads: "The Tribunal's own examination and appreciation of the ballots resulted in a finding that more than 50 percent of the ballots spoiled will contain in the precincts subject of the revised questions. Accordingly, the presence of said ballots before court be considered as strong indicator that the election in said areas was marred by irregularities."

But in fact, the Arguso-led majority peopled by members of Zubiri's caving bloc in the Senate, the so-called Magnificent 7, had. Basing the math that the majority did not even attempt, Carpio pointed out, "the 'more than 50 percent' standard is mere assertion," the appreciation reports for Quezon City, Manila, Batangas, and Bulacan (Zubiri's pilot areas) show that the number of ballots or spoilt ballots in the precincts subject of revision "more than 50 percent of the ballots" contested is the particular city or province. "IN FACT, THE SPURIOUS BALLOTS CONSTITUTE A MERE 2.2 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CONTESTED BALLOTS FOR QUEZON CITY, BATANGAS, AND BULACAN." [Emphasis in the original.]

How "Pimentel's evidence, consisting of the testimonies of board of election inspectors (BEIs) persons-in-charge (PICs), supports the allegation of massive electoral fraud in Quezon City and Manila. Specifically, the BEIs testimonies established that THE FINGERPRINTS on Zubiri's pilot areas; WERE INTRODUCED AFTER THE 14 MAY 2007 ELECTIONS," Carpio pointed out.

Interesting if nothing in the Senate.

* * *

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Have job, will journey

WHERE AM I? I found myself up in an unfamiliar place, after dreaming of a place where everything seemed happy yet surreal. A final thump had awakened me. It was still dark, though rays of sunlight were creeping inside my room. As my other senses began working like a late dinnertime of an aunt, my running, so early, I realized I was in a place I didn't want to be in. I realized that the cough had shouts and the hard pillow and sound ...

YOUNG BLOOD

Kervin Ross Garcia

We want to know what the young people are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the youngsters out there and below.—Ed.

I was 16 41 degrees North, 21.26 degrees East, in the outskirts of a country so imaginative that they have a national flag that is green, just green, making me wonder if it was. Indeed, a Greece map hadn't convinced me. I was in Libya, and that country, I found, the outskirts of the Sahara Desert.

I am an overseas Filipino worker. You might have heard stories about the typical OFW who works outside the country leaving his/her family for months or even years as a result, someone who sacrifices in pursuit of a higher salary so that the family will have a better life. A true-cold, I would say.

Honestly, that description is spot on, and I must admit, except that I am not your typical OFW. There are many reasons, including how I like the things I do, and if there had been a job like mine to our country, I would have stayed even if I were paid a much lower salary.

I studied engineering at a prestigious university. I did my homework, and studied hard for my exams. I passed the board exams. But since I was not at the top of my class, I did not have job offers before I graduated. I had to apply to countless companies and get no reply.

I had this dream of working to an industry that was so technical that only a handful of people in the world could do the job. I wanted to be an expert in a job that was so highly specialized that I could travel to different parts of the world because nobody else was capable of doing what I did.

This dream job fantasy probably came from watching all those James Bond movies and other spy stories. Little did I know that I would have my dream job and work in the middle of nowhere in the Libyan Desert, of all places.

Months after donning a tuga, tossing my hat, and posing for numerous pictures with my family and classmates, I found myself with my hands reaching for the sky and an 18-1/4 semi-automatic rifle pointed at my chest. I knew what an M-14 looked like from playing so many "counter-strike" video games back in college. I wanted to ask the guy if he could jump and shoot at the same time, like in the game.

I and my colleagues, an American guy from Texas and two Mexicans, were en route for a job in the jungles of southeastern Mexico. We were engineers—"specialized expert engineers," about—whose job was to drill to a target the size of a baller's head from a distance of 10,000 feet underground to reset block gold. Think "Armageddon" minus the space suits and Liv Tyler.

After hours of explaining inside their camp which came equipped with wooden cages, the Mexican soldiers gave us the green light to go on our way. It was a good thing that my Spanish was at its peak because I had to translate. Typically, I would strive in a country and spend one night in a good hotel (if I am lucky). The next day I am off to another, whether by helicopter or on a 20-hour drive through a desert, or on a motorboat that will take me through what seems like a never-ending river, or on a chartered plane that will land in the jungle. I usually stay and sleep on the rig site for weeks at a time, and it can be in the middle of the sea, jungle, swamp, desert, ice ... or a nice little town in Germany, the best of all the places I have been to so far.

I can go on and on with my stories, including staying in a hotel room in Guyana that had more than 40 locks on the door to where a British guy was living with 7 hens over mosquitoes the size of grasshoppers in the jungles of Gabon. I almost got thrown out of a rig when I challenged to a fight one Italian boss after he told the Filipinos probably came from a caste of helpers and slaves. (I have also some good stories that I want to relate in some detail, but I won't for admirable these days—for good.)

Despite all this, I love my job. It's a lot hard and uncomfortable at times, but as the saying goes, the only way you can grow is to step out of your comfort zone. I want my children and grandchildren to know that I did not just sit on a chair in a small cubicle for years until I died of boredom. I want them to see that it is okay to leave their dreams and goals, they must sacrifice, work hard and persevere. And that leaving yourself to fly with the same airline again and again gives you the best frequent-flyer miles any company can offer.

Will I advise my children to take the route same path? No. I would rather have them do their own thing and discover their own dreams. I will, however, tell them that wherever they end up on the same path, or in it, they will have to do it without any encouragement from me. They will have to do it by themselves so that they will become better as a man or a woman, intellectually, emotionally and, yes, spiritually.

I am still young. But I have gone through so many adventures already that sometimes I feel like stopping or at least taking a long break. But you just cannot quit. You just don't, unless you have to. There are other things that I look forward to, like learning other languages. Traveling to other far-flung places and experiencing more of life.

As I write this, I am listening to a Russian language learning CD in front of my small compact laptop. My visa has been approved, my bags are packed and I am ready to go. In a few days' time, I will embark on another journey. I will be starting on a new drilling project in the middle of the coldest inhabited place on the planet: Siberia. I will have my adventure, I will have my story and, most important of all, I will get more frozen meat.

Kervin Ross Garcia, 28, is a drilling engineer for Baker Hughes Inc., an international oil and gas service company.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions sent to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Protecting party-list system

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE FRAMERS of our Constitution said those who conceived the party-list system in our country had the best intention to guarantee that only those "truly belonging to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, such as labor, peasants, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers and professionals" represent these sectors.

However, judging from the results of the recent election, these sectors have been practically set aside as our law is poorly implemented. Instead, what we have now are party lists belonging to or organized by political clans and other self-interest groups, whose real motive is to become members of Congress "through the backdoor."

The inattention of our law on party list and the laxity of the Commission on Elections in approving the applications for party-list accreditation have contributed to the continuing proliferation of the system. As a result, the very institution mandated to implement the system here has drawn any sincere effort and concern to protect the rights and interests of the sectors that deserve to benefit from the system.

But all is not lost. To ensure that these sectors are properly installed, all that is needed is to promulgate appropriate rules governing "party names" (the party-list groups, with each of them identifying the specific sector it belongs to or wants to represent).

For example, a group claiming to represent the "veterans sector" should be "grouped" with that sector; a group claiming to represent the "youth sector" will be grouped with the "youth sector," and so on. In this if a particular sector has, for instance, five accredited party-list groups, these administrators gets the highest number of votes shall be entitled to seat in Congress.

In this way, all the sectors that the Constitution envisions to be represented under the party-list system are assured of representation. The sectors themselves can nominate any group claiming to belong to a particular sector as their representative or oppose the registration of such group before the Comelec.

My alpha-betical arrangement on the ballot. As

present, the names or acronyms of party-list groups are arranged alphabetically on the ballot. Because of this method, some groups have their names or acronyms start with letter "B" or with number "1" to ensure a vantage position on the ballot. And this is the reason why almost 80 percent of the party-list groups have names starting with letter "B" or number "1."

To discourage this scheme, the Comelec should not alphabetically arrange the names of the party-list groups on the ballot. Before printing the ballots, the Comelec should raffle the nominees to be assigned space on the ballots. Voters need not worry—even if we have many party-list groups on the ballots, the ordinary electorate would only be voting for one and the number and number will not be too hard to memorize.

—ROMULO B. MACALINTAL
election lawyer
Wack-Wack Village, Las Piñas City

P4.46-B payment for P211-M project?

THE FULL PRICE of the Bataan Metropolitan Development and Reclamation Project (Inquirer, 7/12/10) clarified many of the issues related to this controversy.

I must have been not reading the Inquirer and I am glad that the government has closed down the Bataan Metropolitan Development Authority.

For a long time Bataan Metropolitan stood as a symbol of abject poverty in the country and I was one of those who applauded when the government embarked on the project to give the residents their own homes.

But imagine my dismay when I heard that the housing complex constructed by Eric Buhlion in the area where I have been driving to a couple times (by hearsay) the hood of reports that in many of the buildings, inchoate (pic-ango) fruit (banana) dark foundations, since they are in what used to be a mountain of trees. The only goal to show that the property developer could have made shelters in the construction phase.

And my fears were somehow confirmed when I found out that P-B had a paid-up capital of a mere half-a-million pesos when it registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and yet was allowed to undertake an ambitious P6.6-billion project. Not surprisingly, before long, B.D. was unable to pay up the P6.6 billion needed to complete the project, and had to ask a number of government financial institutions to extend funding support.

Now P-B wants the government to pay P4.46-billion when it completed only P211 million worth of the housing project?

This, to me, is a case of "bad faith, if not greed, and is notably at odds with the idea of good governance.

It is only proper, I believe, that the Aquino administration initiate an inquiry to goodness knows how many of the housing projects of the Bataan Metropolitan project if we were to uphold the rule of law. After all, good corporate governance requires transparency and accountability. What will happen to the Philippine business sector if firms like P-B completely ignore the law and the business dealings and ties only by their own rules?

—RODRIGO CAUPED,
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MVP's pledge to bring cost of power down

THE NATIONAL Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform (Nasecore) endorses Malacañang Palace's statement that Meralco's cost hiking down the cost of power if only it can generate its own electricity. ("Electricity rates beyond Meralco's control," 7/15/10, p. A1).

We find the statement very bold in light of the rate-case system purchase agreements that Meralco entered into with three independent power producers (IPPs), as approved by the Energy Regulatory Board, now the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). Two of these IPPs, (Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo) have a combined capacity of 1,200 megawatts and controlled by First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC) which used to control Meralco prior to the entry of MVP. We also find such statements timely in light of the growing demand for electricity which, unfortunately, the Department of Energy has failed to address adequately.

Immediately there are three things that come our minds: First, that MVP like any other investor, finds the current Meralco generation charge reasonably high and, given the chance to own generation plants, likewise finds its kinship ties lower the cost of electricity. Second, he is ready to challenge the longtime dominance of the Lopezes in the power industry. And thirdly, it is a clever way of selling ourselves to the ex-cousin distribution utility of Meralco.

Perhaps, this is a propitious time to remind BSP that the Lopezes have no desire to give up their dominance in the power industry even with the surrender of their leadership in Meralco, and thus the aggrandizement of FPHC as manifested in its recent announcements of its P6 billion buyback plan of Meralco shares.

Perhaps, MVP, in his good intentions, should be reminded that Meralco as a franchised distribution utility and not a generation company and that, in the absence of any legislation, consumers should be to retain the distributing services of Meralco and start introducing the needed preferential arrangements for which we is widely known.

MVP also has to reckon with the Negotiated cross-ownership limitation under the law between distribution and generation utilities per grid in light of Meralco's current IPPs with IPPs and of the Aquino plants that FPHC has acquired. The limitation is that 30 percent limitation may be revised so as sufficient to the high IPP rates currently end up with Meralco.

We can only wish for MVP the same wish we have for our new president, Benigno Aquino III, that he be brave and strong in promoting the Filipino people from greedy businessmen and government officials!

As for financiers, we maintain that through consumer-owned and government-supported power cooperatives, the cost of generating new generation plants should not be a problem because the combined resources of consumers cannot be matched even by the combined resources of the country's oligarchs.

—PETE L. GALAN,
president
National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform,
nasecore2003@yahoo.com

Mission impossible

THE REPEAT in President Aquino's marching order—"Stop 'jueteng'"—is funny. Secretary Jesse Robredo. This is one presidential order that is bound to fail. There is no practical solution to stop jueteng. It's been there for the last 100 years and will continue to exist even if Pagcor is abolished and gambling is banned. Jueteng is more resilient than "bang-bang." Banned so many times, it keeps coming back.

Jueteng is so low-stake that it is easily affordable to low income Filipinos. It is so deeply embedded in the grassroots culture that it has become impossible to eradicate. Whenever banned, it would stop but not for long. Several presidents have tried to stop it and failed. It is not going to stop just because P-Noy said so. Why? Because everybody is on the take—from college heads of schools to municipalities cops and military commanders who give jueteng lords protection.

Gambling, whether a raging issue or leaving one's fate to luck, is part of human nature. That is one reason why whether we like it or not, the Philippines is made jueteng legal and to tax it, this effectively removes the incentive that corrupts public officials. Unlike in high-stake casino games, nobody loses his shirt, nor or house in jueteng. Make jueteng legal and this will result in low earnings officials, happier ordinary Filipinos and more taxes that could be spent for the people's benefit.

—CESAR M. DELOS REYES,
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Across the NATION

'Basyang' aftermath: 32 still missing

LEGAZPI CITY—Civil defense officials reported Monday a total of 17 confirmed dead, 32 still missing and 83 rescued in Bicol after a week of search and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon "Basyang."

Buddy Alejandro, Office of Civil Defense-Bicol director, said Air Force helicopters, Navy Islander plane and sea vessels, army trucks and Coast Guard vessels had scoured the seas off Quinalasag Sea, Camarines Norte and Catanduanes.

He said the bodies of the 17 dead were recovered from the towns of San Pascualano, Catanduanes and Buenavista in Camarines Norte; Camarines, Catanduanes line, and five other areas that have not been listed.

Missing

The 32 people listed missing were reported in the towns of Bagamanoc, Catanduanes, 11; Caramoran, 6, and Lagonoy, 4—both in Catanduanes that; Jose Panganiban, 2; Mangkawayan, 3, Panganiban, 3, and Buenavista, 1—all in Catanduanes Norte.

Alejandro said of the 83 rescued, Jose Panganiban town accounted for 40, while Mercedes town had 11—both in Camarines Norte; Pandan, 8; Gigmoto, 6, and Caramoran, 4—all in Catanduanes; Lagonoy, 3; Buenavista, 6, and Milaor, Albay, 2.

Most of the casualties were from Bicol once except for giant waves spawned by Basyang when it hit the Bicol region, he said.

No new storm

The search for the missing continues just as a second weather system to enter the country in a week has moved in there every hour. Philippine coast and is forecast to be some 870 kilometers northeast of Aparri, Cagayan, by Sunday, the weather bureau reported.

Weather bulletin of the Philippine atmospheric, geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) as of 11 a.m. yesterday placed Tropical Depression "Gaemi" 280 km west of the Subic Bay freeport Zone.

It is expected to move northwest to the coast in the coming days at speeds of about 20 kph and maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center, the weather bureau said.

Pagasa has not raised a public storm signal about Gaemi as it is not the Philippine area of responsibility.

The tropical depression passed through the country just a few days after Basyang ravaged Luzon, causing widespread power outages and mudslides.

Blue G. Arguelles, Inquirer Research; Jerome Aning and Tarra Quismundo in Manila

'BASYANG' CASUALTY

A boat toyed by small-scale miners in Pawacan, Camarines Norte, is reduced to rubble, and becomes an instant mini-playground for three children, after it was battered by strong winds and rain reaching its storm at the height of Typhoon "Basyang."

CHR tags former mayor's slay as extrajudicial

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The regional office of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Eastern Visayas will separately investigate the killing of a former mayor in Eastern Samar, saying it is not treating it as another case of extrajudicial killing.

Mateo Bleng, former mayor of Dapaco town, was shot dead on July 13 in Barangay Golibot.

Rogelio Nacino, CHR regional director, said Bleng's killing was "high profile because he was former mayor."

Bleng served for nine years in Dapaco town mayor and lost his bid for the lone congressional seat of Eastern Samar in the May 10 elections.

His son, Mark, succeeded him as mayor of Dapaco.

Nacino said the CHR would make sure that those responsible would be identified and charged in court.

However, he declined to say what could be the possible motive behind the former mayor's killing.

Despite Bleng's killing, Nacino said the number of cases of rights violations in the region had declined.

He said that last year, at least 52 cases of human rights violations in Eastern Visayas were monitored by the CHR regional office, down from the 118 cases reported in 2009, a decrease of more than 19 percent.

The cases included murder, illegal detention, disappearances and physical injuries.

However, for the first six months of the year, the CHR regional office reported 36 cases, majority of them were "carry over" cases in 2009, which meant there were still unresolved as the investigation was still ongoing.

The common perpetrators of these cases were policemen, soldiers, ordinary government personnel and even members of the New People's Army.

PDEA agents nab head of West Visayas drug gang

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A reported leader of one of five drug groups operating in Western Visayas was arrested in a buy-bust operation here early Saturday, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said.

The suspect, Alex Montefalcon Segovia, 36, of Brgy. City was arrested in Barangay Villamonte, Paul Ledesma, PDEA regional chief, said.

Segovia was No. 2 on the Region Ovisilemid drug watch list, said Cedric Rolaora, PDEA Region Ovisilemid chief.

Ledesma said Segovia led a syndicate operating in Iloilo, Aklan and Bacolod cities that smuggles shabu through the Bacolod-Silay airport.

Segovia was arrested after surveillance operations that lasted three and a half months, said Ledesma.

Agents recovered from Segovia the P40,000 used in the buy-bust operation, six sachets of shabu worth P70,000 to P80,000, drug paraphernalia and a Toyota Fortuner with license plate MMS 99.

Segovia was detained at the city police station 4 pending the filing of cases against him.

Three of the five drug groups in Western Visayas are operating in Negros Occidental, Ledesma said.

Segovia had been arrested twice before for drug possession. However, former Antique Governor Raul Gonzalez had dismissed one of the cases, Ledesma said.

City mayors' group declares support for reform agenda

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A new set of leaders has taken over the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), a group of city mayors nationwide that vows to support the Aquino administration's reform agenda.

Oscar Rodriguez, mayor of the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, was elected LCP president; Bernard Ringpis, mayor of Mandaluyong City in Pangasinan, secretary general; and Enrico Echavez, mayor of Caloocan City, chair.

All were swapped in their bids.

"The country is now ready for reforms," said Rodriguez in a statement shortly after his election as secretary general.

Rodriguez said that while the league would support President Aquino, it would have a blind eye on policies that would hurt local government units.

"Anything inimical to the interest of local governments, we will make them known to the national leadership," Rodriguez said. "We will not be antagonistic."

At least 80 city mayors signed a manifesto of support by to-be-sworn under Mr. Aquino II during the election of the LCP leaders.

Mr. Aquino met with members earlier, urging them to help restore people's trust in the government and speaking highly of Rodriguez.

Rodriguez, 64, a former member of Lakas-Kampi-CMD, won the only Liberal Party candidate in Pampanga who won in the May 10 elections.

Rodriguez said strengthening local government autonomy was high on his agenda for the league.

According to Rodriguez, local governments will play a key role in pursuing Mr. Aquino's reforms "and the LCP would be a strong ally in this endeavor."

Ringpis is one of the youngest members of the LCP and, at Malabon's inception, has seized out illegal gambling and fishing in his city. Rodriguez was detained during martial law for his underground activities and offered free legal services to victims of human rights abuses under the Marcos dictatorship, Inquirer Central Luzon and Central Luzon

2 nurses bound for US dead in motorcycle crash

BACOLOD CITY—Two young nurses, set to leave for work in the United States, died when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a van here at 3 a.m. on Tuesday.

PO2 Wilson Go identified the victims as Jasper de Pania of Barangay 14 and Jocelyn dela Paz of Jesus Meyden Subdivision, Barangay Estefania.

Dela Paz is the daughter of SPO3 Eduardo Cain Paz, the chief of Mobile City Mega Crockdown.

Police said Dela Paz and De Pania were riding a black Honda motorcycle and were heading east on Burgos-Lopez-Jaena when it hit an approaching black Nissan Urvan driven by Ruth Cordova of Purok 6, Barangay Estefania.

Dr. Paula Bacal said the way to Public & Tarre Memorial Hospital and Dela Paz died at about 7:08 a.m. on Sunday while being treated for the same hospital. Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Mayor worries about artificial reefs after oil spill

THE LEAK of bunker fuel from a submerged pipe of one of the country's biggest oil firms is also endangering artificial coral reefs in a Cavite town where it caused an oil spill that officials said had been contained.

Mayor Jose Rizalbruno of Rosario said the reefs are right in the path of the spill.

The artificial reefs, each about half meter in size and made of materials using Geomate technology, were built in 2007.

"We now have 600 of these growing [marine life] and returning fish," Rizalbruno said.

The mayor said the municipal government had formed its own crisis committee, composed of engineers and environment officials, to study the effects of the oil slick on the reefs.

"The oil may not contaminate the fish, but it may drive the fish away from our coasts," Rizalbruno said.

Rosario has the largest fish port in Cavite and is dependent on fishing.

"People are now hesitant to buy fish at the markets if they learned they came from Rosario," the mayor said. He said fish from the coast was safe for human consumption.

At the height of Typhoon "Basyang," the anchor of a barge hit and damaged an underwater bunker fuel pipeline owned by Oriental Petroleum at its depot in Rosario.

Petron had already sealed the ruptured pipe to prevent further leak, while Coast Guard men commanded to assess and collect the spill on the sea surface.

At least four drums of bunker fuel have already been retrieved.

But Rizalbruno said sealing the pipe was only a temporary solution. "We want the company to replace the pipeline and some have worn spots. If it rains, the oil can separate," he said.

In the 1950s, the pipeline was in the sea prior before the company redesigned the depot and laid the pipes under water, Rizalbruno said. He described the line to be 1.5 kilometers long and wide enough to be a human being.

"The problem is no really would not know what is going on inside the pipeline if they are under the water. Nobody knows about this accident, but what if it does happen again? There should be a long-term solution to this," Rizalbruno said.

The Bolaristan's group Mandaluyong Mamumuhunan ng Pilipinas demanded the complete cleanup of the oil depot in Cavite.

The municipal government has suspended depot operations, but allowed deliveries to prevent any disruption in supply.

"We serve petroleum products should be pumped into the pipelines anymore." Rizalbruno said.

The Cavite depot supplies petroleum products to Petron refineries in the Caloocan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon). Marlon Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

CHILDREN play with sheen that used to contain oil in the village of Wawa in Rosario, Cavite, a town hit by a recent oil spill that hurt its fishing industry.

Makati sports science seminar Saturday

BEGINNING COACHES, physical therapists, and trainers here until Wednesday, to register for the first leg of the Sports Science Initiative (SSI) seminar series scheduled on Saturday at the Makati Sikh Gurdwara Club. Speakers at the seminar endorsed by the Rizal Sports Science Institute and the Philippine Association for Exercise and Sport Less Fidel Pigroff, Chester Thompson, Reinaldo Gallardo, Hammond Pitt, Hugo Gallegos and Mino Sevilla.

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SPORTS

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Japanese thrash weary Smart Gilas-RP five

By Jove Navarro

HSINCHUANG, TAIWAN—Japan hastily trained its high-scoring lineup in dealing the Smart Gilas Pilipinas five an 84-74 drubbing yesterday in the 22nd William Jones Cup International basketball tournament here.

Deadly from the perimeter, the quick, aggressive Japanese pulled away early in the fourth quarter and eventually sent the tired Filipino dream to their second loss in five games.

"There wasn't enough rest. We're tired and couldn't recover from the game last night (against Chinese Taipei)," said Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman, whose boys needed extra time to beat Taipei, 76-75, Sunday night.

"But I think they (Japanese) were the better team on the court, from without (Yasuka) Kanamaru, they remained aggressive."

The Japanese, who had their day off Sunday, played minus the 6-foot-9 Kanamaru, who averaged 25 points a game before he sprained an ankle against the Taiwanese Saturday, ending his stint here for good.

Japan, which picked up its third win in five outings, opened the fourth period with seven quick points on Takuma Ishisaki's three-pointer and two fast breaks completed by Isaac Hirose to take a 62-52 lead.

Smart Gilas cut the lead down to 70-66 behind Marcio Lassiter, Mac Baracael and Jeff Cariaso with three minutes remaining, but Japan responded with a 6-0 count, press that dwindled the rally.

A jumper once by Baracael and a layup by Marcio Lassiter paved the way for two Japan baskets that doomed the Filipinos, time down to two minutes.

"We were good in the three-point zone but we couldn't defend the fast break," said Siweneo. "There two crucial errors also prevented us from getting the win."

Double, RP's candidate for naturalization, again came up with a double-double of 20 points and 21 rebounds.

Smart Gilas ranges up its nine-game spirit Lebanon, meeting a win to have a chance of finishing either second or third.

Defending champion Iran, which beat arch-nemesis Lebanon earlier, will just go through the motions of ending the round-robin tourney as Chinese Taipei's worst.

Forward Yaseen Amine and Hesse turned in 13 points each while 7-foot-2 Fouzhdeh Amir and Reza Tahour, who played briefly for the Phoenix Fuel in 2008, added 10 points apiece.

The scores:
JAPAN 84—Amine 13, Hesse 13, Ishisaki 10, Kawamura 10, Tsuzuki 9, Kuroiwa 8, Uchida 6, Ishigaki 5, Nakamura 4, Takeda 2, Kanamaru 0. Substitutes: Ishisaki 10, Kawamura 10

FEU guard keeps Tams unscathed

By Jasmine W. Payo

FAR EASTERN University remained unbeaten even if its two veteran Tamaraws have yet to make an impact early in the UAAP season.

And coach Glenn Capacio credits sweet-swingman guard Bill Garcia for taking charge in leading the Tamaraws to a 2-0 start in the men's basketball tournament.

"He stepped up when we needed him in my opinion," Capacio said of the 5-foot-11 Garcia, who notched 21.3 points in the Tamaraws' back-to-back victories.

The experiences of Jiff Gowding and Aldrech Ramos, both members of the Smart Gilas national quintet, was among the key factors that molded the Tamaraws to preseason favorites.

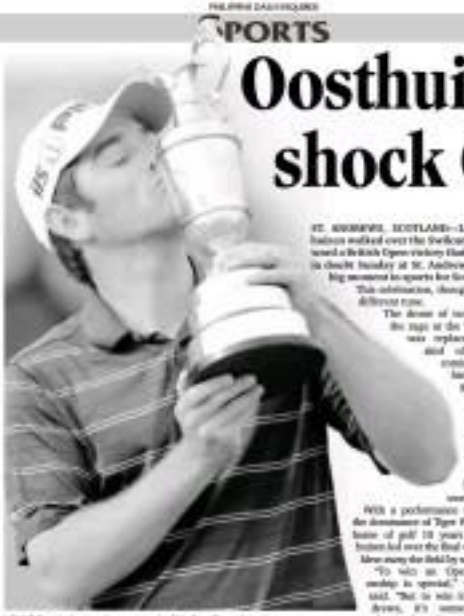
But the veteran duo struggled in their first two outings with Gowding averaging only 2.5 points and Ramos scoring eight.

"Of course I'm still not satisfied with their game," said Capacio. "They played for Smart Gilas for seven months, so it's also hard for them to adjust again to our system."

Garcia duly filled the slack by matching his career-high 25 points in the Tamaraws' 92-69 sipping of back-to-back champion Ateneo last July 11.

"I always do my best to help the team win," said Garcia, a recipient of the dorm-filled UAAP Most Valuable Player Plaque award.

Garcia started now to the Tamaraws' 91-72 triumph over the National University Bulldogs, delivering the clutch baskets in the last four minutes to finish with 18 points last Saturday.



LOAD: Oosthuizen can't get enough of his first Claret jug. —AP

Oosthuizen seals shock Open win

ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND—Louis Oosthuizen walked over the Swilcan Bridge to unveil a British Open victory that was unrivaled in shock Sunday at St. Andrews, another big moment in sports for South Africa.

This celebration, though, carried a different tone.

The drone of vuvuzelas, all the rage at the World Cup, was replaced by the sing-song of bagpipes coming from the band the Royal & Ancient clubhouse. For the 27-year-old South African, the sound could not have been sweeter.

With a performance that rivaled the dominance of Tiger Woods at the home of golf 10 years ago, Oosthuizen led over the final 40 holes until Lee-many the field by seven shots.

"To win an Open championship is special," Oosthuizen said. "But to win it at St. Andrews, it's something you dream about."

The dining could not have been better—one week after South Africa concluded a wildly popular World Cup, and the day Nelson Mandela celebrated his 92nd birthday.

"It felt a bit special, really," he said. "When I walked down 18, I was thinking about his birthday."

By then, the hard work was done. Oosthuizen made only two bogeys over the final 35 holes in a strong wind that swept across the Old Course. He closed with a 1-under 71 for a seven-shot victory over Lee Westwood, who was never in the game.

The only challenge came from Paul Casey, who got within three shots after the eighth hole. Then Casey drove the green on the par-4 ninth. Oosthuizen answered by hitting driver onto the green and knocking in a 60-foot eagle putt to restore his comfort.

There have been Casey, but into a green lush and made triple bogey, while Oosthuizen holed an 18-foot birdie putt.

Oosthuizen spent the final hour soaking up an atmosphere unlike any other in golf with his caddie, Zach Zuegen. He finished at 16-under 272 and became the first player since Tony Lema in 1964 to win his first major as a first-timer.

Woods, who won the last two times the Open stopped off at St. Andrews, came by a record margin, could only muster a tie for 22nd. He's coming off fourth-place finishes at the Masters and the US Open. AP

Sharp Lady Falcons thump NU tossers

By Cedelf F. Tapao

ADAMSON THUMP unwanted National University a new volleyball home, coming away with a smashing 25-17, 25-16, 25-21 triumph Sunday night in the Shakey's V-League Season 7 second conference at the FEOR Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Sheilla Sotiao registered with 14 points as the Lady Falcons, firing on all cylinders, bounced back from a draining five-set defeat in their opener yesterday. Perpetual Help Lady Altas, last Thursday.

Coming off a 25-15, 25-21, 25-23, 16-25, 15-12 nonsquare of the St. Benilde in their debut, the Lady Bulldogs were stopped in their tracks by a solid Adamson squad.

The Lady Bulldogs found no answer to Santiago, despite blocking and Melissa Beatrice's forays in the net and fell to a four-way tie for third with Adamson, Perpetual Help and Lyceum.

Running into trouble contributed by 19 points on the attack for the Lady Falcons, who had five players scoring at least eight points.

Alyssa Denise Santiago, a transferee from University of Santo Tomas, paced the Lady Bulldogs with nine points.

Elaine Ingcia and Mervic Almagui, who had 26 points in the win over St. Benilde, scored 7 and 6, respectively, as NU scored a measly 25 points off 105 attacks.

Adamson got 10 points off seven aces with furious accounting for four and another guest player, Michele Laborte, contributing two.

Suspense in PSC to end soon, Palace spokesperson says

THE SUSPENSE in the appointment of a new chair in the Philippine Sports Commission is expected to end either "later this week or early next week."

Presidents Aquino has already signed the appointment papers of the new chair and the four new commissioners of the government sports agency, according to Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda yesterday.

"The PSC appointment papers were among those signed by the President over the weekend and they are expected to be released either late this week or early next week," Lacierda added.

Former PSC commissioner Eidee Garcia, who was endorsed by Philippine Olympic Committee president and Speaker cards Jose "Peping" Cojuangco to succeed PSC chair Harry Angeles, said nothing is official so far.

"I haven't received anything yet," said Garcia. "Nobody has called me yet."

Cojuangco, together with Garcia, PSC commissioner Akiko Thomson and former ocean chief Buddy Andrada met with Executive Secretary Paquito "Jojo" Ochoa at Malacañang two weeks ago.

Cojuangco reportedly also endorsed former basketball star Chito Loyzaga and Lilo de Leagan Philippines' Jolly Gomez as commissioners. Cedelf F. Tapao

Boxing's unappreciated surprise package

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trinidad

THE HEADWIND condition under the swell-in PLC Tree was a five-star stunner, but it did not come as a surprise how the energized Philippine team, burning hard on the female fighters, topped the inaugural tournament of the MVP International Friendship Cup on Sunday.

For a local start, the host country was allowed to field two teams.

Credit, of course, should go to the able Thais who generously offered courageous, classy competition that helped the tournament's tournament rise close to world level.

The professional conduct of the tournament, mainly the strict scoring, reached those to world competitions, and should earn RP solid points when it bids to host one of the qualifiers for the 2012 London Olympics.

* * *

News to the fight details:

Featherweight Charly Suarez, lead RP entry, was only an even bet against Olympic candidate Wonapej Petchkaosri in the expected RP-Thailand main event.

Suarez, 21, however won home fans screaming in delight as he blasted Petchkaosri with crushing body blows that threatened to turn the bout into a mismatch.

Suarez won, 7-6, to take the gold and the accompanying $1,000 bonus.

Of course, Suarez, the most outstanding Filipino boxer Sunday, was a class by himself, compared to his other teammates. Joepin Linkon and Dolfo Rebodoi, who also topped their divisions.

* * *

Linkon, battle-scarred veteran, did it his way and baffled Aprichai Bolai, a neophyte Thai lightweight, by hammering out a thrilling decision, despite delivering blows with the solid skill of a baseball pitcher.

The veteran's mate, 3rd Dy Olympian Armi Alberia, went 3-for-3 in the finals, a tremendous feat that lowered the bulk of the RP-eight gold haul.

Regarding Linkon, he scored a big, hilarious win, but it's quite doubtful if he could go all the way to this year's Asian Games in China.

This, of course, was not the case with Suarez, pride of Davao del Norte, who this only appears to have passed the test and has looked a three-to in the Asiad following his monumental conquest of a feared Thai fighter.

* * *

Naturally, the guy most thrilled at ringside was Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Ricky Vargas, although he had to be reminded later that he obviously missed out on something great.

Vargas failed to witness the light flyweight final between the Philippines' Victorio Saludar and China's Wu Hongjing, easily the most thrilling bout of the finals program.

The final bazaar rounded with the score tied at 9-all.

But like was said here it was reported in the official blog sucker the scoring after.

* * *

"Victorio Saludar, Ulysses Catubio II and Genesis Flores lost in their respective finals on nightmare continued to haunt the men's team," said an Abap press release sent to various sports desk.

Saludar lost to China's Wu Hongjing on points in the 48 kg, Catubio rassed to Chonchai Thadi, 1-7, in the 51 kg, Flores succumbed to Anurag Rawnagar, 1-4, in 51 the kg," the press statement added.

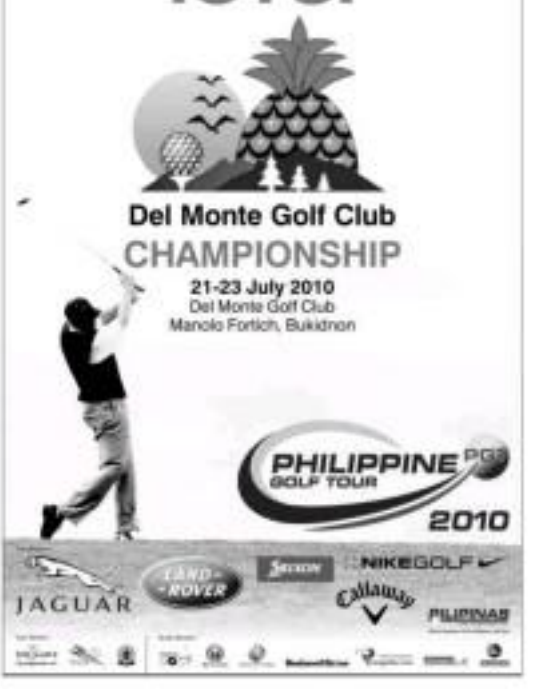
There definitely was nothing gory or shameful in the case of Saludar, younger brother of international mate Rey Saludar.

Saludar, 19, in fact pushed the after-gift of Pia, when he fought like a true Davaoeno up to the London Olympics, to the limit.

Not only that Saludar defeated Inay via a comeback, could've earning it had two close punches he had landed been scored.

It cannot be denied that the gifted farmer's son, despite limited exposure, has displayed incredible maturity and composure, one to lead him far and wide in his chosen sport.

But there's also the danger of his talent going unappreciated.



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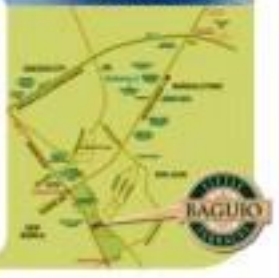

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DID YOU KNOW

(SECOND) Street in Ermita, Manila, was named after former University of the Philippines president Jorge Bocobo. It used to be known as Bellavista. Cyril C. Bonalaente, INQUIRER Research

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Customs man charged over wrong SALN

Luxury car, P2-M loan not listed in statement of assets

By Jeannette I. Andrade

CHARGES were filed yesterday in the Manila Regional Trial Court against a customs officer who was accused of falsifying his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) after he failed to declare that he owned a luxury vehicle and had secured a P2-million loan from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Victor Barros, a special agent (I) assigned with the Bureau of Customs in the Port of Manila, was formally charged with falsification of documents based on the recommendation of Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer II Ruth Laura Mella.

Mella recommended bail of P24,000 for Barros' temporary liberty.

Based on court documents, Mella claimed that Barros "willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously made a deliberate assertion of falsehood" in his SALN for 1999 which he submitted the following year.

She said that Barros failed to declare that he owned a Daihatsu Pizazon VS and had borrowed P2 million from GSIS.

The information against the customs official was based on a complaint made by the Department of Finance-Revenue Integrity Protection Service (DOF-RIPS) which had been tasked to conduct lifestyle checks, investigate allegations of graft and corrupt practices and file the necessary criminal and administrative complaints against erring officials of the DOF and its attached agencies, including the BoC.

The DOF-RIPS claimed that Barros, a BoC employee since 1981, amassed wealth disproportionate to his income and failed to submit his SALN within the period prescribed by law from 1983 to 2001.

Barros, meanwhile, denied that he had been remiss in filing his SALN.

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MMDA ready for bad weather

By Nikko Calleja

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday announced its inclement weather emergency preparedness and response plan for Metro Manila.

In a statement, the agency said that "Oplan Ulan" was in response to the MMDA's mandate as the lead agency in disaster management in the National Capital Region.

Oplan Ulan will be the basis of operations and will outline the functions of the MMDA's p.

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Police form task force against car thieves

By DJ Yap

DON'T get out of the car when another vehicle bumps you. Just keep driving and head for the nearest precinct.

This fearless video (hence DON) yesterday gave this advice to motorists, especially those coming from the airport in the wee morning hours, to avoid getting victimized by carjackers.

EPD director Chief Supt. Francisco Manalo said one way to foil a syndicate preying on "balikbayan (returning Filipinos)" or tourists would be to ignore any provocation that might be intended to lure them out of their car.

Just get out of there quickly and keep driving until you reach a police station," he said.

But Manalo pointed out that his advice no longer applied when a gun was involved.

"It's a different story when a gun is trained at you. In that situation, just give [your car] to them. It is not worth losing your life over," he said.

The group, dubbed "Tanduay [Image] gang," targets people who have just landed at the international airport after an early morning flight, Manalo said.

He added that he had formed a team tasked with tracking down the syndicate.

In a press conference in the EPD's Ibaig headquarters, Manalo said he suspected that there were one or two small groups involved, probably based in or was just outside Metro Manila, and who might be in cahoots with some people at the airport and possibly some policemen.

Their latest victims were an American national and his Filipino wife who lost their spanking brand new Toyota Fortuner worth P2.5 million to the gang.

Manalo said the couple arrived at the airport when they were accosted by the gang members.

The suspects used two vehicles, a gray Toyota Vios and a white Mitsubishi Adventure, in the carjacking, which occurred at around 4:30 a.m. on Aguinaldo Highway in Dasmariñas City, Cavite province.

The couple was then forced to ride in the Vios, which was driven by one of the suspects, while the other suspects followed in the Adventure.

The victims were dumped in Barangay Salitran 2 in Dasmariñas City, where they were able to flag down a passing police patrol car.

The police recovered the Fortuner in Barangay Salitran 2 in Dasmariñas City, where they were able to flag down a passing police patrol car.

The police recovered the Fortuner in Barangay Salitran 2 in Dasmariñas City, where they were able to flag down a passing police patrol car.

POLICE sketch of car theft suspect.

Police recovered the Fortuner in Barangay Salitran 2 in Dasmariñas City, where they were able to flag down a passing police patrol car.

The

'Kill them all': 17 gunned down in Mexico fiesta

TORREON, MEXICO—Echoes of "Kill them all!" gunmen opened fire at a weekend birthday party here, leaving dead at least 17 people in another attack that laid bare the brutality of Mexico's drug cartel violence.

A dozen people were also wounded as the killers sprayed more than 200 bullets indiscriminately at the private celebration outside Torreon, an industrial city in the northern state of Coahuila.

Sunday's attack brought the number of victims across the country, which has been blighted by drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderon launched a 2006 crackdown on the cartels, to at least 877 just in the past weekend.

The attack began early in the morning when the massive squad arrived in a popular party hall in the posh Colina neighborhood of Torreon aboard eight SUVs, said Raymundo Oliveo, a Coahuila state government official.

"A heavily armed 50 squad came and cried 'Kill them all!' and they started shooting," a Coahuila police source said, citing a witness. Most of those gunned down were in their 20s and 30s.

Investigators found more than 300 shell casings, mostly from bullets fired by AK-47 assault rifles, which are widely used by Mexican drug gangs.

Police said they have not identified the shooters nor do they have a motive for the crime.

Mexico's drug war has daily killings as rival gangs battle to control routes for smuggling cocaine from South America and other contraband into the heavier-US market, and fight the security forces that try to clamp down on the cartels.

Some 28,000 people were killed in Mexican drug violence in 2009—and in less than six months this year, some 7,000 people have already been killed, according to government figures.

Unrelated was the violence in Ciudad Juarez on the US-Mexico border, which saw some 2,300 murders in 2009 alone—more than seven a day on average.

Located some 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of the US border at a key intersection for two major highways, Torreon has seen regular drug-related violence recently.

The latest slaughter was reminiscent of a similar attack in late January when hitmen working for a drug gang opened fire and killed 16 young party-goers in Ciudad Juarez.

In that attack, some 15 gunmen opened fire on a house party packed with teenagers, most of whom were high school or college students. Some were shot outside the dwelling, others gunned down as they tried to flee.

Almost at the same time last in Torreon, 16 people were killed when gunmen rolled up in a trio of Humvees and opened fire on a crowd outside a bar.

The recent wave of violence includes a car bombing in Ciudad Juarez on Thursday that killed four and wounded 11.

Ciudad Juarez Mayor Jose Reyes said that gang members set a trap using a wounded person shouted as a municipal police officer to lure federal police into a mass intervention before the bomb was detonated.

Nearly 23,000 people have been killed since December 2006, when right-wing president Calderon made dismissing the drug cartels a national priority and launched a massive crackdown.

The death toll worries scientists in the, even though Calderon has deployed some 50,000 soldiers across the country to strengthen local police forces. AFP

WHO: 5.2M people on AIDS drugs in 2009

GENEVA—The number of people taking crucial AIDS drugs climbed by a record 1.2 million last year to 5.2 million, the World Health Organization said on Monday.

Between 2008 and 2009, the number of patients receiving lifesaving antiretroviral treatment increased nearly-fold, according to the Geneva-based body.

"We are very encouraged by this increase. It is indeed the biggest increase that we have seen in any single year," said Rowland Hirschbeil, director of the WHO's HIV/AIDS department.

Hirschbeil, in a recent interview with The Associated Press, said the jump was due to improved access to treatment around the globe. However, he noted that progress had been more significant in sub-Saharan Africa than elsewhere.

"That's obviously where the greatest need in terms of numbers is, but that's really where we have seen the most impressive scale-up in terms of treatment access," Hirschbeil said.

He said the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, based in Geneva, is currently in the Zambian capital for an international AIDS conference.

In Eastern Europe, meanwhile, there are reportedly fewer people on treatment than in other parts of the world. Increased drug control efforts are not included in the given antiretroviral access, he said.

Drug users are "criminalized, they are stigmatized, they are obviously a group that suffers inequities and human rights violations, and that's obviously a serious concern for all of us," he said. AP

INDIA Rescuers pre-dawn Sunday recovery operations on the mangled wreckage of train coaches following a railway accident in Sainthia, some 260 kilometers north of Kolkata, on July 19. AFP

Policing the lurid corridors of the Internet takes a toll

NEW YORK (AP)—Seconds right-hours a day in front of a computer outside Orlando, Florida, viewing some of the worst depravities harbored on the Internet. He has seen photographs of people being killings, animal abuse and tortured forms of pornography.

An Internet content reviewer, Bess sifts through photographs that people upload to a big social networking site and keeps the B-list material from being posted.

With the rise of websites built around material submitted by users, reviewers have never been in greater demand.

The responsibility borders a magic in Internet screening services—but also a growing awareness that the jobs can have mental health consequences for the reviewers, some of whom see dozens to the low-paying work by the simple prospect of making money while looking at pornography.

"You have 20-year-old kids who get hired to do routine interview and who get cocked because they think they are going to see adult porn," said Brandon Shigata, the former chief security officer at MySpace.

"They have no idea that some of the things they will see—and again they will see can haunt them for the rest of their lives."

Last month, an industry group established by Congress recommended that the federal government provide financial incentives for companies to "address the psychological impact on employees of exposure to these disturbing images."

Shigata, co-chairman of the group, the Online Safety and Technology Working Group, said global outsourcing firms that recruitment content for many large Internet companies do not offer therapeutic care to their workers. The group's recommendations have been submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which advises the White House on digital policy.

One major outsourcing firm, with one in the Philippines was aware of the risks of the type of work and hired a therapist to help give its intern how it was affecting its 500-content moderators. The psychologist, Patricia M. Lispercio of Behavioral Dynamics, said she developed a screening test so the company could screen out potential employees, and helped its supervisors identify signals that the work was taking a toll on employees.

Lispercio also conducted team-building conferences in her interviews with content moderators. She said they were likely to become depressed or angry, have trouble forming relationships and suffer from decreased sexual appetites. Small pressures could they had reached to implement images by vomiting or crying.

"The images interfere with their thinking processes. They mess up the way you react to your partner," Lispercio said. "If you work with garbage, you will get dirty." AP

Speeding train in India hits another, 60 killed

SAINTHIA, INDIA—A speeding passenger train crashed into another train early on Monday, killing at least 60 people and injuring almost 100, officials said.

This was the second major accident in the state of West Bengal within two months. In May, a train sabotage blamed on Maoist rebels killed more than 70 people. The Maoists denied the charges.

Officials said final plus in Monday's accident was unlikely, although Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee said an investigation was under way to find out how both trains came to be on the same track.

Local television channels quoted unnamed railway officials as saying "tampering" with signals could not be ruled out.

The accident occurred when the Uttar Banga Express rammed into the stationary Vananchal Express at Sainthia in West Bengal, said Soumitra Mohan, the area's district magistrate.

"The death toll has gone up to 60," Sonia Gowswal, a railway spokesperson, said. "A few in this list is the final toll."

"There are also several seriously injured undergoing treatment in hospitals," Gowswal added. The impact of the crash saw several coaches thrown upwards in a mangled heap. Thousands of people milled around the accident site, some helped in rescue operations. Reuters

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO)
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No.	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
			SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF 5KVA 3-PHASE DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER COMPLETE WITH BRACKET AND OIL PROOF PAINT
			Acquired Savings
			Check
			Cooperative
			Lowest Bidding
			Contractor
			Bank's Signature Lapse
			Bank's Name
			Location
			Prepared by:
			Noted:
			Approved:
			Bank Authorized
			Contractor
			Date
			Serving Number
			Bank Authorized
			Date
			Serving Number
			Bank Authorized
			Date
			Serving Number
			BANK NOT FOUND

Russian maestro in Thai court on rape charge

PATTAYA, THAILAND—Russian conductor Mikhail Pletnev appeared in court on Monday in Thailand where he has been charged with raping a teenage boy.

Pletnev, artistic director of the Russian National Orchestra, delivered evidence for eight hours in bail. He returned to Thailand over the weekend after being allowed to leave the country temporarily to attend a music festival in Macedonia.

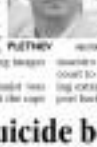
"I have always stated that I will assist the police in every way I can with their inquiries into the allegations that have been made against me," Pletnev said in a statement to the media outside the court in the resort town of Pattaya.

"I look forward to the police allegations are not true," he said, adding that police had found no incriminating images on his computer.

The conductor and pianist was charged in early July with the rape of a 14-year-old boy in Pattaya, where he has a house.

He denies the charge, which carries a sentence of up to 20 years in jail, and was released after paying a bond of 500,000-baht ($15,000) bail.

The award-winning musician was followed by a Thai court to travel overseas after posting cash bail but is required to report back every 12 days. AFP



PLETNEV AFP/FILE

20 held over Uganda suicide bombings

KAMPALA—Ugandan police said they had arrested 20 people, including several Pakistanis, after last week's deadly blasts in Kampala, as Interpol published facial reconstructions of two suspected bombers.

An investigation in Uganda said they believed the attacks, which killed 76 people, were the work of Al-Shabaab, the pro-Somali police agency Interpol, released the photos of two suspects.

The Interpol team, which was called in by Ugandan police to help with the investigation, put together the reconstructions from remains found at the scene.

Two blasts tore into a restaurant and a busy bar on July 11 as crowds gathered to watch the football World Cup Final held in South Africa.

Ugandan police on Sunday released an updated death toll of 76, an increase from the previous figure of 73.

"In terms of those who are in custody, currently it is more than 20," police chief Kale Kayihura told reporters.

Among them were Pakistanis who had a shop in a Kampala suburb, Kayihura said. "They are being questioned...They have to explain themselves." The blasts were claimed by the al-Qaida-inspired Shabab insurgent group in Somalia.

They were the deadliest attacks in the region since the 1998 bombings against the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam also linked to Islamist militants.

One of the arrested Pakistanis had been mentioned in an e-mail sent by a prominent Shabab spokesperson, as having links with the Islamist group, the police chief said.

He said police believed the attacks were carried out by two suicide bombers and that he did not rule out the involvement of the suspected attack, an suggested one was of Somali origin and the other a black African of undetermined origin. AFP

BPI Opens Nominations for 5th BPInoy Awards

Filipinos are not merely everywhere in the world. They are achievers wherever they go. The 5th year of the Philippine Inventors, through its BPInoy Awards, continues to empower and encourage Overseas Filipinos to be excellent in their chosen field of endeavor abroad.

The BPInoy Awards honors cultural excellence and outstanding pride of Filipinos by its continuous recognition of Overseas Filipino Achievers. The award honors the past nationalism and outstanding excellence of Filipinos in the global platform.

"Through the BPInoy Awards, BPI aims to recognize and encourage Filipinos to the country and the world that Filipinos are globally competitive," says Nonoy Tan, BPI EVP and Group Head of Overseas Banking and Channel Services Group.

On its 5th year, the BPInoy Awards once again calls for nomination of outstanding Overseas Filipinos who have elevated the culture and pride of Filipinos with their exceptional contributions to the community.

Individuals of Filipino heritage, regardless of current citizenship, and of good moral character, may be nominated for their outstanding achievements. They must also have lived and or worked overseas. All nominees will be evaluated by the BPInoy Awards Steering Committee based on criteria that include high moral uprightness and exceptional record of achievements among others. The awardees will be chosen for the Arts and Media or Sports Category and Business or Science and Technology Category.

Nominations may be made by any Filipino individual or organization based locally or internationally, by sending a short article of not more than 500 words on his or her accomplishments that have brought honor and pride to the country which answers the questions:

• Why does the nominee deserve recognition as a BPInoy awardee?
• How does the nominee's efforts make a difference for the betterment of the Overseas Filipino community abroad?
• Is there anything else that makes the nominee exceptional or unique?

Entries must be submitted on or before September 15, 2010 to bpinoy@bpi.com.ph, addressed to Mr. Alberto U. Villarosa, Marketing Department, Overseas Customers Segment, Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Last year, BPInoy Awardees were White House science adviser Prof. Ms. Cristina Paulo Gonsebat, Dr. Eli Rosenberg, chief representative for the Asia and the Pacific of the Bank for International Settlements, and renowned painter Mrs. Arlin Magsaysay-Ho.

Through the BPInoy Awards, BPI continues to bring to life the achievement of Filipinos in the increasingly NEW phenomenon. For more information about the Award, log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Oil seepage detected; BP ordered to give new plan

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA—The US government has ordered BP to submit an emergency plan for possibly reopening its capped Gulf of Mexico oil well after experts detected seepage from the seabed.

Investors emerged as the government's point man on the worst environmental disaster in US history also told the energy giant to expect swiftly on a "deserved step" and "unrealistic" were the well.

BP—which said the bill from the leak had risen to $3.95 billion—had earlier acknowledged some bubbles appeared near the wellhead but expressed optimism that the cap installed three days earlier could stop oil.

US Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen said on Sunday that BP must lay out its next steps in writing for "opening the choke valve as quickly as possible without damaging the well should hydrocarbon seepage near the wellhead be confirmed," that he stopped short of ordering the immediate removal of the cap, which has halted the gushing crude for the first time since April when BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded and capsized, killing 11 workers.

Allen said in his letter to BP chief executive Bob Dudley that the company must report to the government in no more than four hours when seeps are detected.

"Given the current observations from the rov, including the detected seep a distance from the well and undetermined anomalies on the wellhead, monitoring of the seabed is of paramount importance during the test period," he wrote.

BP's chief operating officer Doug Suttles said earlier that pressure was rising slowly in the well as expected and tested "encouraging signs" that would allow the new cap to remain on the well until permanent relief wells can be drilled in August.

"It was different bubbles we've seen a few bubbles. This is not uncommon but clearly it's important that we check everything very closely, so we're monitoring that," Suttles said.

"We have done some simple tests to determine if these bubbles appear to be from hydrocarbons or from something else and at this point we don't believe they are from hydrocarbons," he added.

The US government was growing more alert to oil-spill well turn on a 24-hour basis, while BP said the valves on the containment cap that is channeling the flow would remain shut as long as no leaks are discovered. AFP

OBAMA and daughter Malia return to the White House after the first family's weekend vacation in Maine. AFP

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Obama posts big wins but gets little credit

By Stephen Collinson

WASHINGTON—Just over President Barack Obama's stunning political loss would dispute his claims to have forged sweeping political change—their cries for repeal of his historic reforms have one period of that.

But Obama, despite wielding a victory over hard-won that reshaped regulation of the post-crisis financial industry, has garnered little political reward for fulfilling campaign promises like enacting health care reforms.

And the hope he whipped up among voters in the 2008 election has diminished, as America's inadequate self-confidence stagnates as economic gloom takes its toll.

Questions about Obama's leadership are growing, amid crushing unemployment, a grinding war in Afghanistan, and an historic disaster from the country's worst environmental disaster sparked by BP's gushing oil well.

A flurry of polls in recent weeks have triggered fears among Democrats that their control of the House of Representatives and the Senate could be at risk in November's mid-term polls.

Historically, a party hammered with a president who has approval ratings below 50 percent suffers badly in congressional polls.

In recent 22 television network surveys ranked them among Democrats, as they showed Obama's ratings between 44 and 50 percent.

History often shows a delay between a president acting on his agenda and getting credit for it.

In the 1990s, Bill Clinton had to wait months before getting political payback for turning the economy around.

"It takes a long time for that message to seep through—especially when there is pain out there," said Brian Buchanan, a professor specializing in the presidency.

The White House strategy has been aggressive, pulling blame on the previous Republican administration for creating the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

"Too often, the Republican leadership in the United States Senate chooses to filibuster our recovery and obstruct our progress. And that has very real consequences," Obama said on Saturday.

Obama will make a big issue of the financial reform law he will sign on Wednesday, arguing it shows he is on the side of the hard-pressed American consumer—and Republicans who oppose it are in the pocket of big business.

Senior White House aides have already signaled they plan to make the reforms, intended to reach down on "shadowy" financier firms, an election issue.

"I think there is great currency in this," said Obama's close adviser David Axelrod.

"Someone once said that good government is good politics." Republicans, however, are narrowing the attack on Obama's signature initiatives—a $787 trillion stimulus plan, the health care reform law and the Wall Street bill.

They claim Obama has skewed the rebound by investing in old-fashioned "big government" policies, and seek to turn Obama's opposition to a same line in America...which critics say exposes illegal immigrants to racial profiling—into a national political liability.

"We needed jobs, and they gave us a trillion-dollar boondoggle they call a stimulus," said Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Republican attacks may be heading on patent political ground, given voter preoccupation with the still parlous state of the economy.

Unemployment still stands at 9.5 percent—and is higher in many areas. AFP

Contemplative Praying

The St. Paul the Apostle Contemplative Prayer Group invites everyone to a series of talks for two consecutive Tuesdays -- July 20 and 27 -- by Rev. Fr. Ferdinand "Soy" Hernando, Founder-Steward of Missionaries of Beatitudes. It will be held every 6:00 PM at the St. Paul the Apostle Parish along Timog Avenue, QC.

The topics are: Today's Challenges to Contemplative Life (July 20), and Vital Signs of Contemplation (July 27). Each talk will be followed by a Healing Mass.

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Associate Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

6-month BOP surplus hits $3.24B

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
July 19, 2010
46.420

STOCK MARKET
July 19, 2010
▼ 18.39

(For stock market report, see Page B3)

Stocks end lower

LOCAL STOCKS drifted lower yesterday as global financial markets were spooked anew by a string of unfavorable US economic data.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index fumbled 18.39 points or 0.33 percent to close at 5,424.29.

The decline was in line with choppy trading across Asian equity markets, in turn preceded by the meltdown at Wall Street on Friday that saw the closely watched Dow Jones Industrial index shed 259.41 points or 2.162 percent to 10,097.90.

At the local equities market, there were 70 advancers, 98 decliners and 62 unchanged issues. Foreign investors were net sellers during the day.

Trading was mixed across sectors but the overall index was weighed down by the industrial, property and service counters. On the other hand, the financial, holding firms and mining/oil outperformed.

Foreign investors locked in gains from Manila Prime: SSIC, Petro Holdings, DMCI Holdings, PLDT and MPIC, but picked up selected banking stocks like those of BPI and Security Bank.

Total value turnover amounted to P5.29 billion as 106 issues were removed in global markets.

Mara C. Ibanez

Net forex inflows surged to $502M in June

By Michelle V. Rama

NET INFLOW of foreign exchange to the Philippines surged nearly seven times in June, defying the supposedly adverse impact of the debt crisis in Europe on money inflows to emerging economies like the Philippines.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the balance of payments (BOP) recorded a surplus of $502 million in June, sharply higher than the $73 million registered in the same month last year.

This brought the country's BOP surplus in the first semester to $3.24 billion, up nearly 46 percent from $2.22 billion a year ago.

A closely watched economic indicator, the BOP is the record of the country's commercial transactions with the rest of the world.

Inflows of foreign currencies into the Philippines are normally made up of export revenues, remittances from Filipinos overseas, external loans and grants, and investments—either portfolio or direct—by foreign nationals.

On the other hand, outflows normally result from the payments of imported goods and services and settlements of foreign debts.

The surplus in the BOP increases the country's reserves of foreign currencies, which the BSP earlier reported to have stood at $44.6 billion as of end-June. The central bank said the latest amount of reserves, a record high, was enough to pay for nine months' worth of imports and was 6.9 times the country's short-term foreign debts.

Analysts said remittances usually accelerate in May and June as overseas Filipino workers send more money to time for the opening of the school year.

The BSP earlier reported that remittances from January to May amounted to $9.4 billion, up nearly 7 percent from the $8.79 billion in the same period last year.

Monetary officials added that the country's "healthy" level of external liquidity was supported by foreign capital inflows and projections of a global economic recovery this year.

Although the debt crisis in Europe triggered by the fiscal woes of Greece, Portugal and Spain...have somewhat dampened the appetite for investments in emerging economies in general, analysts and developing nations in Asia remained to be fa-

vored because of projections that the region would continue to drive global growth this year.

The International Monetary Fund, in an economic conference held in Dagjon, South Ko-

■ GROWTH RISKS B2

EU unmoved by PAL pleas to lift ban

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) has refused to remove the Philippines from a list of countries whose airlines are banned from flying to the continent due to the lack of substantial industry-safety reforms in their local aviation sector.

Philippine Airlines said it was able to convince EU officials that PAL was of international standards. However, the company's plans to be excluded from the ban fell on deaf ears.

"We made a presentation to the EU last June and we were able to convince them that we are a safe airline," PAL president and chief operating officer Jaime J. Bautista said in a recent interview.

"But they told us they were sorry and they could not give in to our request in far safety out of the blacklist," he said.

The ban stemmed from a recent audit by the International Civil Aviation Organization [Icao], whose officials raised "serious safety concerns" over the state of the country's aviation sector.

Particularly, the Icao pointed out the lack of professionalism within the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), which was tasked to make sure that local airlines were safe to fly.

Following the poor grade received from Icao, Philippine carriers were thrown into a blacklist of airlines banned from flying to Europe.

The CAAP, now under the leadership of former Manila airport manager Alfonso Cusi, has started to implement reforms since then, including the grounding of several aircraft found to have fallen short of international safety norms.

Bautista said that although PAL has no flights to Europe at the moment, the ban keeps the airline from landing plans to resume operations in the continent. Before being forced into rehabilitation in the late 1990s, PAL used to have flights to popular cities like London, Rome and Paris.

Bautista likewise said that as a result of the ban, European travel agencies have stopped selling PAL tickets to tourists who may want to take the flag carrier to

■ LAWMAKERS B2

Maynilad eyes $250-M loan from WB

By Zoey B. Baron

WEST ZONE water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. is in talks with the World Bank on a possible loan of as much as $250 million (roughly P11.25 billion) to help fund its long-term sewerage projects, said a company official.

At the sidelines of a company briefing yesterday, Maynilad Chief Finance officer Randolph T. Estrella told reporters that negotiations with the multilateral agency were underway although the loan can be tapped until 2017, the water utility expects to formalize an agreement by next year.

Estrellado said the company could avail itself of the loan through the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines.

He added that the World Bank was already looking to extend next year's concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. a similar loan of $250

MAYNILAD B2

Value of seized counterfeit goods may top P5.6B

By Abigail L. Ho

Gov't urged to assign prosecutors to enforce IP laws

THE INTELLECTUAL Property Office of the Philippines (IPO) has expects to top the value of counterfeit goods seized in 2009 worth around P5.6 billion.

In an interview, IP Philippines director general Ricardo Blancaflor said (but the Senate) Committee on Intellectual Property Rights, of which the government agency was a part, had already seized around P1.4 billion worth of counterfeit items in the first half of the year.

While this figure was still a long way from the P5.6 billion worth of goods that had been seized last year, Blancaflor said bulk of seizures usually took place in the latter part of the year.

Topping last year's P5.6 billion haul is still a feasible target, he said.

"We're confident that we'll be able to surpass last year's performance," Blancaflor said.

The IPOPH seizes all sorts of counterfeit goods, including video replicating machines, pirated CDs and DVDs, and fake merchandises, ranging from clothes and shoes to fast moving consumer goods and grocery items.

In an earlier interview, he suggested that a pool of full-time prosecutors be assigned on IP violation cases to help curtail rampant cases of piracy in the country.

He said enforcement was the agency's "weakest point" as it did not have its own operating unit to enforce IP laws.

DTI softens stance on franchising industry rules

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is promising to get to the 6 outlined guidelines for the growing franchising industry to more voluntary than mandatory.

Victoria Maria Brioughs, director of the DTI's Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection, said the objective of the guidelines was to help would-be franchisees avoid fly-by-night franchisors.

"The guidelines will give potential franchisees an idea of what questions to ask franchisor, to make sure that these franchisors will not dupe them of their hard-earned cash," he said, adding that many of today's franchisees were families of overseas Filipino workers who had cash to spare but had little or no experience in business.

"We want to prevent unscrupulous franchisors who victimize these OFW families from entering the industry. We want to write the guidelines in a fashion favorable to them, so they won't appear regulatory," he added.

Instead of taking the form of an administrative order, he said the guidelines would more likely be in the form of a memorandum of agreement between DTI and franchisee organizations such as the Philippine Franchise Association and Association of Philippine Franchisees Inc.

Both of these groups were included in the technical working group currently formulating and ascertaining the contents of the guidelines, he related.

In a separate interview, PFA executive director Lito said the group preferred to police its own ranks. The DTI guidelines, however, were welcome in the sense that these would prevent fly-by-night franchisors from breaking into the industry and duping the potential franchisees.

"Our members are all legitimate. We have our own set of guidelines, which are stringent enough as policies our own ranks. We're willing to cooperate with the DTI on the guidelines, to ensure that the industry maintains its credibility," he told reporters.

Dimagiba said the guidelines should be completed and released before year's end.

Abigail L. Ho

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MacroAsia OKs ₱50-M buyback

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LISTED MACROASIA Corp. has approved the buyback of P50 million worth of shares to allow for the easier entry of investors via private placement.

The buyback will give the company bigger blocks of shares that can be sold to investors, which will help the company raise funds for its expansion plans.

"At the organizational meeting of the Board of Directors of MacroAsia Corp. the newly elected Board approved to allot P50 million to buy back shares of MacroAsia at market price," the company said in a disclosure to the local exchange.

Based on MacroAsia's closing price of P2.80 each on Monday, the company will be able to buy back 17.86 million shares or 1.43 percent of the company's outstanding shares of stock.

"This will give us more shares that we can later sell to investors that may want to buy in to the company," MacroAsia president Joseph Chua said over the weekend.

The company said it would announce the date of the buyback and other details at a later date.

One of the company's upcoming capital-intensive ventures is the planned several of its mining business by reopening the Silanan nickel mine to shipments.

The company said it was also considering mining for minerals like gold and manganese in Marinduque and Leyte.

MacroAsia operates through its units Macrodata Catering Services, Inc., MacroAsia Airport Services Corp., MacroAsia Mining Corp., Lufthansa Technik Philippines, Inc., Cebu Pacific Catering Services, Inc. and Tell MacroAsia Philippines, Inc.

Bayan, MTI deny Extelcom claims

LOCAL PHONE firm Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and Multi-Media Telephony Inc. (MTI) are denying accusations that the two have illegally joined forces to increase their chances of winning the third, after share, the country's last third-generation (3G) license.

The two firms criticized rival Express Telecommunications Inc. (Extelcom) of muddling the truth by claiming Bayan and MTI had formed a "joint venture" under which all assets and operations of Bayan would be consolidated under MTI.

All three firms are vying for the country's last 3G frequency. Under NTC rules, two companies that are associated with each other are barred from joining the auction at the same time.

"Bayan categorically denies the accusation by Extelcom that Bayan and MTI are a merged entity, and that based on this, a divergent campaign was employed to capture the last 3G frequency," Bayan said in a statement.

"Such plan would not have been possible in essence without having incurred prior approvals from regulatory agencies, Bayan's creditors and the rehabilitation court," the company said.

Bayan and MTI have not merged into a single entity. Bayan and MTI operate as two separate companies, the Lopez bellplanet firm said.

However, Bayan admitted that it had an existing cooperation agreement to share resources relating to the operation of Bayan's wireless/landline network with MTI.

The allows Bayan wireless landline customers to expand the usable area for their wireless/landline service. The agreement includes revenue sharing and co-handling arrangements.

"It is also not unusual in the telecom industry to share resources in the interest of providing quality service to its customers and the public in general," Bayan said.

Bayan also said it had contemplated consolidating its wireless business with MTI, subject to the necessary government, creditor and court approvals. Both companies, however, had decided not to pursue this consolidation.

"To reiterate, outside of the GMA asset sharing agreement, both companies continue to remain separate legal entities," Bayan said.

In a separate statement, MTI said it would not dignify any attempt to obscure the "real issues." The company has asked the Court of Appeals to order the NTC to award the last 3G slot to MTI.

"We are confident that MTI will ultimately prove to be successful in its quest to seek redress for the grievances with the courts," the company said. Paolo G. Montecillo

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Market Rider

From page B4

lowed by a drastic downward move. This causes the price of the stock to fall from its previous positions and it's just there or even falls lower after you have taken a new position again on the impression that it is bouncing back.

The second type involves the drop of a stock price but then suddenly surges back immediately not far from where you have invested yourself and then, pressured you there to executing the play.

Considering the difficulty of accurately predicting the market, we are advised to resort to what is called money management. It's the second of the three most important elements to winning in the market.

More accurately, it is known as position sizing. It refers to the amount of money one allocates in a stock investment that should not seriously put at risk your overall investment asset when the market goes against your trade. Low level appreciation of one's risk tolerance capital growth when right.

We'll have more on this next time.

(You may reach the Market Rider at marketrider@inquirer.com.ph or at dennisrem@yahoo.com)

BIR misses tax target in June

From page B4

Earlier this month, Henares said a revision of the BIR's monthly collection goals from January to May showed that the agency actually missed its five-month target.

She said the monthly targets for the period were revised downward to align with the agency's historical performance."

Henares said that based on Revenue Memorandum Order No. 21-2013 that had cut the original monthly goals for the year, the P870 billion target for 2013 was split at a ratio of 39:61 between January to May and June to December.

This means that 39 percent of P870 billion must be collected by end-May and 61 percent should be collected for the remaining seven months.

With actual collections reaching P546.1 billion in the five months to May, the BIR exceeded the original target of P525.4 billion for the period.

With a report from Reuters

6-month BOP ...

From page B1

ers, earlier this month, said there was indeed expected to post the highest economic growth among the world's region this year, supported by low rates exchange inflows.

General Bank officials said the Philippines' "level of risk and liquidity gives comfort to fund investors that the country has the resources to meet its obligations despite uncertainties outside its borders.

EU unmoved ...

From page B1

ean attractions in the Philippines.

PAL is also the only local airline that has the aircraft capable of going on long-haul flights to Europe.

Aside from the EU ban, the Philippines was also downgraded to a category 2 status by the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), again, the low grade only affected PAL, being the only airline that flies to North America.

Maynilad eyes $250-M ...

From page B1

million for sewerage projects.

Aside from delivering potable water, Maynilad also provides sewerage and sanitation services to the West zone. It operates and maintains pumping plants and wastewater treatments facilities to ensure the efficient collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater.

At present, only residents and establishments in Tondo, Intramuros, South Manila, Malabon, Navotas, Caloocan, Pequiza 7 and 8 in Quezon City and Magallanes Village in Makati City) may connect to Maynilad's sewerage system. Customers in areas not covered by Maynilad's sewerage network usually dispose of their wastewater through their own septic tanks or sewage treatment facilities for big commercial and industrial customers.

Aside from the World Bank loan, Bonifacio said the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) also expressed interest in providing the company its funding requirements, but declined to elaborate further.

Maynilad is also planning to tap a consortium of local banks to raise P6 billion through a syndicated loan to help fund the utility's capital expenditure program.

According to Bonifacio, the company targets to raise the amount needed to finance projects for 2013.

Earlier this year, the company announced that it was planning to raise only P40 million (P1.8 billion) to help plug its rapid gap, estimated to reach about P100 million between this year and 2015. One of the banks it was in discussions with was BDO, according to former Maynilad president and now Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson.

Singson had said then that Maynilad—a joint venture of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and DMCI Holdings Corp.—would use the amount to help finance the completion of the Paranaque sewage treatment plant in Muntinlupa City, the construction of two major reservoirs in Villamor and Pugeo City and other planned water projects.

BUSINESS

BIR misses tax target in June

By Bernard W. Dantingo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue collected P95.27 billion in June—P1.5 billion lower than the target set for the month, the agency said, citing preliminary figures.

The government had set a BIR collection target of P96.7 billion for the month. According to Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim S. Henares, the agency fell short of its collection target by 1.5 percent.

The June figure had cut the BIR's cumulative collection for the first six months at P483.47 billion.

The amount is 7.4 percent higher than the P373.61 billion collected in the year-ago period. Still, it was 6.2 percent short of the P521.1 billion goal which the government had set.

The government raised the BIR's collection goal for the year by P30 billion to P969.44 billion after it determined that the 2011 budget deficit could reach P323 billion, or 3.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Despite the shortfall, Henares said she would do everything possible to meet the full-year target of the BIR.

The DBM's original 2011 target set by the Development Budget Coordination Council (DBCC) was P880.441 billion.

But when the new administration came in, the DBCC raised the BIR's target to P969.44 billion.

"Meeting the yearend target is crucial for the country because the extra generated will be used to fund vital expenditures necessary for stability and sustained economic expansion," Henares said.

And since monthly collections are dictated by the amount of business activity as well as tax payment schedules and deadlines, the BIR has been prompted in Henares' view to monthly targets to reflect the increase in the overall target, she said.

When asked for details, she said the new figures would still have to be approved by the DBCC.

BIR, B2

Importance of money management

MARKET RIDER

Dem Sonnera

IS THE MARKET on the verge of reversing the lower price movements noted?

This is a question that I have been struggling with since the market started to suffer small losses last week, along with the observation that Wall Street also suffered one of its biggest losses last Friday for the very same reasons.

There are "the once-forbidden unemployment rate, lackluster wage gains, and a stalling housing market."

Continuing as they may appear, this only underscores the fact that price movements can be driven by small factors or by seemingly frivolous sentiments. But they can't just be dismissed, for they can lead to something significant like a market correction or reversal.

Correction or reversal

Speaking of market corrections, it is always negative in character, its movement is opposite of the dominating trend of a stock price.

Its occurrence, though, is said to be indicative of a healthy market. Thus, it is expected to occur from time to time, along with excessive price increases.

In addition, the price disruption in a market correction is temporary and usually results in a price retreat equivalent or about 10 percent only.

It occurs as well when there is no evidence that the increasing price trend will have to cease. Investors just suddenly draw down their purchases that collectively lead to a pullback toward a short-term price support level.

Said the other way around, market corrections can happen even when there is no fundamental reason for the stock price to decrease. Investors just note conditions after a stock has made a steady increase in value.

A market reversal, on the other hand, is different. Its direction can be either positive as in upward or negative as in downward.

It is said to be on an upward reversal when the price of the stock changes from its downward trend. And it is said to be on a downward reversal when its upward direction turns the other way.

But what really makes it a reversal is when the stock's price follows a trend where the closing prices culminate in a series of either higher highs or lower lows from previous, as the case may be.

Bottom line spin

The problem with market correction and reversal is that they can hardly be distinguished from the start. They can only be identified days and after some market losses have been incurred.

Also, they can lead you to premature decisions that can result to what is called a "whipsaw."

A whipsaw happens when the market "jerks head to one direction, but then is followed quickly by a movement in the opposite direction."

There are two types of whipsaw patterns. The first one involves an upward movement which is in-

MARKET RIDER, B2

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As of July 25, 2011

CURRENCIES

July 25, 2011

Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Euro Equivalent
Australia	Dollar	1.1161	1.40888	1.9748
Japan	Yen	0.58502	0.73836	1.0351
United Kingdom	Pound	1.7041	2.15092	3.0147
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.38449	0.48527	0.6803
Switzerland	Franc	1.19251	1.50506	2.1098
Canada	Dollar	1.12719	1.42263	1.9943
Singapore	Dollar	0.80116	1.0111	1.4174
Australia	Dollar	0.57613	0.72703	1.0191
Bahrain	Dinar	2.6529	3.34802	4.6931
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.70782	0.89327	1.2521
Brunei	Dollar	0.80112	1.01104	1.4172
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00009	0.00011	0.0002
Thailand	Baht	0.03491	0.04406	0.0618
UAE	Dirham	0.27203	0.34331	0.4812
EU	Euro	0.79268	1.00046	1.4021
Kuwait	Dinar	2.80364	3.53836	4.9598
China	Yuan	0.17139	0.21627	0.3031
Denmark	Krone	0.14216	0.17938	0.2515
India	Rupee	0.02063	0.02603	0.0365
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.34101	0.43036	0.6033
New Zealand	Dollar	0.8436	1.06467	1.4924
Norway	Krone	0.19249	0.24292	0.3405
Taiwan	Dollar	0.03484	0.04397	0.0617

Source: Bankers Trust, trading prices as of 5 p.m., July 25, 2011

Aline Thelma Sinson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Wellness

LESLIE Lewis-Sword appears in her one-woman play "Miracle in Rwanda," which runs until July 25 at Greater Life Auditorium in Makati.

LOOK Nicolas Lewis (third from left) with daughter Leslie Sword and grandchildren Christian and Sandy.

What's with Paul the octopus?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licanco

THE ONLY thing I know about an octopus is that it has eight tentacles, which gave it its name, and that it looks weird. But an octopus that picks winners of big sports events with great accuracy is something else.

Last week, a two-year-old octopus named Paul, which lives in Oberhausen Sea Life aquarium in Western Germany, hit the world headlines by correctly predicting the winners in all of Germany's World Cup 2010 matches, seven times in a row. That high predictive accuracy rules out pure chance or coincidence, statistically speaking.

How does octopus Paul make his choices of the sports event's winner? According to the newspaper item, in a contest between Spain and Germany: "Two plastic boxes, one with a German flag and one with a Spanish, were lowered into Paul's tank, each with a tasty morsel of food inside.

"The box which Paul squirts first is adjudged to be his predicted winner."

When Paul picked Spain as the winner in last week's World Cup game, many could not believe it, because Spain has never won in the series before. But Paul turned out to be correct again, to the dismay of the Germans and elation of the Spaniards. And it took Paul only three minutes to make up his mind, whereas at other times it took him as long as 75 minutes to decide, according to newspaper reports.

Because of his sudden rise to world fame, Paul has gotten business proposals, has thousands of Facebook fans and the attention of world leaders.

WHAT'S C2

Values and giving back —the Lewis women continue a legacy

'As we were going to (the funeral), Leslie said, 'Alright. We are the Lewis women.' Which is to say–straighten up. Forge on. No tears'

By Jaymee T. Gamil

WHEN SELF-MADE US billionaire and African-American trailblazer Reginald F. Lewis died of brain cancer in 1993, he left his wife and two daughters in the lap of luxury: A multi-billion global empire and millions in inheritance. A Fifth Avenue address in New York. Summer vacations in an Ilan Hampton home. Jet-setting around the world.

But to widow Hi-tex lawyer Loida Nicolas Lewis and daughters Leslie and Christina, these hallmarks of wealth are not his real legacies.

"My husband achieved a certain kind of economic success, and in a way we have a certain obligation to every privilege," says Loida.

"He had imparted enough of his values, like my values, of having responsibility for those who are less fortunate," she adds.

Giving back

Loida has spent the years after her husband's death continuing his philanthropic bent.

In 1999, Loida bought Associations College in her home province Bonsignon to Blod, and turned it into the Lewis College.

"It's just my way of giving back," the Bonsignon-born and -raised Loida says. "Education is the best way to lift people from poverty."

The school now gives quality primary to tertiary education to hundreds of students, some full scholars recovering from super typhoons "Milenyo" and "Frenteng," which ravaged Bicol in 2006.

She named the school after her husband, citing him as the best role model.

"His mother was a salesperson, his stepfather was with the State department. They had six kids but they were all sent to college and post-graduate studies. From humble beginnings, he was able to rise to corporate dominion's highest level."

Lewis himself had put up the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation in 1987, which continues to give millions in grants to various NGOs even after his death. It has paved the way for scholarships, educational institutions, a senate-named alley (on Harvard), an African-American heritage museum and a high school in his home state.

"Philanthropy is the way we hold the family mantle," daughter and activist Leslie Lewis-Sword says.

Sword is in town to stage her globally acclaimed three-year-old one-woman play "Miracle in Rwanda," which tells the redemption story of Protech genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza. Part of proceeds go to Orphans of Rwanda, which provides scholarships to children orphaned especially during the 1994 African holocaust. (Visit www.orphansofrwanda.com; call 0919-4.8337705/0.0540.)

Ilibagiza's story of Catholic forgiveness, grace and the desire for "inner divinity" touched Sword so much, that not only did she move to share it with the world through a play she decided to script (see children Christian Boy and Sandra Joy from a Rwandan orphanage.

They're now 5 and 4½ years old. They call Loida "Nenny," and she calls them her bunny's joy. It is the children's first time here in the Philippines.

"The Philippines will always be part of our life, especially because of my mother's college in Bonsignon. When we went there, we were treated like conquering heroes returning from war. I was blown away," Sword relates.

"I realized this will be part of my life forever. And I said to my children: Christian and Sandra, just as you know, this would be part of your hard-visiting life for the rest of your lives. And your children's lives," she adds, laughing.

Family values

This modesty and social awareness have been ingrained by family values, Sword admits.

"When my father was alive, he was very conscientious that we knew we had to work for a living. I remember when we first started becoming wealthy, but our true dream when I was 12 and he said: 'You will inherit $500,000. It'll be enough so that you'll never have to worry, but you'll still have to work.'"

"It was important for my parents that we not be lazybs, that we not be wastrels. I ended up values-driven significantly more, of course," Sword says, laughing.

"But I think everyone wants to see everyone do well. Everyone wants people to be happy, safe, fed, clothed. Most people just don't feel they have the resources to make an impact, but everybody does! Even if it's just lending money to relatives, helping someone with homework. Everyone wants to lift others. It's just that our lives big get lonely," she points out.

Based from her husband's as well as her own experiences, Loida credits success to grinding discipline instead of innate gratification; creativity to opportunities and the initiative to pursue them; and knowing

WILSON C2

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A-LIPAN — BY JOEL ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIN JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOKOMOKOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PUBLIGAS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

TUBOKK — BY MARK COLL

MEH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

KISO MACHINE — BY MANS ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Emotional rest essential long range ideas about financial or higher education (might not) to be taken. Something looks doable, and at the same time, very exciting!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Beyond your ken. Innovative ideas about shared property, wills, inheritance or anything you share jointly with others. You're thinking outside the box!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is an excellent day to talk to partners about vacations, home relocations or the care of children. Someone unusual might suggest a fresh idea.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is a wonderful day at work. Expect to get a lot done. If high technology enters the picture, your benefits will be long-term.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) An unexpected finance with someone older or someone in an age difference is likely today. Possible legal matters. Something looks doable, and at the same time, very exciting!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Discussions with an older family member will no doubt surprise you. Other families itself on its unique expertise you. Keep an open mind. (What does?)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're in a practical frame of mind today. Others may come to you. Use this quality to brainstorm ways to achieve what you want to do. Stay flexible. Today will not unfold as you expect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You might be surprised by your own behavior and how restless or wanting more out of life. Before you buy, are financial matters with which make sure you give away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Someone older or in a position of power might be surprised by your approach to your work or personal life. Don't be afraid to be different. You'll feel this one here to explain yourself. It's what it is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You feel restless today. You have the feeling that you want to act something down or subtly a situation. Instead, be more open than. (Answer to it.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Someone older might suggest something rather surprising to you today. It could show you that you're more competitive in your thinking than you thought you were. (It's never too late to learn something new.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Your spontaneous generosity might put the romance today. You're taking the long view of how things should be shared, and you're not afraid to speak your mind.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

1	7	5	6	3	4	2	8	9
2	8	6	5	9	7	4	1	3
4	3	9	2	8	1	5	7	6
5	6	4	7	1	3	9	2	8
8	1	2	9	4	5	6	3	7
9	5	3	8	6	2	7	4	1
6	4	1	3	7	9	8	5	2
3	2	8	4	5	6	1	9	4
7	9	7	1	2	8	3	6	5

Concepts Sudoku By Mike Argent

8								1
		3		7		5		
4								2
		7				3		
5				3		7		4
		2				6		
5				4				9
		4		8		1		
2						9		7
		8		4		2		
9								2

Medium Easy ●●

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

What's with Paul the octopus?

From page C1

Although Paul is not infallible, he made one wrong call out of 11 in 2008. Still, his record is so extraordinary and it cannot be explained on purely rational or scientific grounds.

Psychic power

Science fans have long known that some animals have very strong psychic powers. For example, many years back, I read a book entitled "The Psychic Powers of Animals." Unfortunately I no longer have the book and had forgotten who the author was. But I remember the book citing case after case of animals mentally reading the minds of their masters, knowing when the master decides to come back from a long trip and even sensing their lives from far-off distance. There are also many cases of dogs or cats losing their ride to trace their way back home after being taken several car-pulling feet away from their home.

But let us not stop predicting the outcome of a sports event with great accuracy, which could not be attributed to chance, pushing the sciences of numerology and psychology to a quandary. Haven't just no rational explanation for it. According to Professor Wiseman, a British psychologist and researcher, "scientists discovered recently that the brains of the octopus is distributed among its tentacles, unlike the human brain, which is concentrated in the head."

If only they had researched further, the scientific insight have discovered also that many Filipinos' predominant brains are concentrated in their mouths and pockets rather than in their heads.

But kidding aside, I am thankful that Paul is not able to predict the winners in the Lotto; otherwise, some might not have more to kill to celebrate him!

Some people have asked me how I can explain Paul's unusual ability to pick the correct winners in the World Cup. Actually, I am also completely clueless to explain it. However, what I can say is that psychic ability is not a question of rational knowledge or intelligence. It is a question of accessing the semi-dormant side of the brain, **the right hemisphere of the unconscious.** Therefore, even if a person does not have a well-developed intellect, it can still pick up psychic signals. Therefore, it is neither intellectuals nor impossible for scientists and researchers to have psychic powers. In some cases of psychic ability, just like the octopus Paul is apparently able to do.

In the '70s, for example, American psychograph expert Clare Backster proved through voluminous scientific experiments that plants can feel, and that want to communicate with people around them. Later, a team of the giant IBM Corporation, Marcel Vogel, confirmed Clare Backster of Clive Backster.

The interesting parallel I could find in the history of prediction belongs using live mussels was the practice of early Greek soothsayers who used the signs of living animals by offering them to the goddess placed on the altar of Greek alphabet, known as a mole. Words were formed from the letters left with oral grunts, and the words formed gave the answer being asked.

But the practice of using an octopus to predict future sports events is really unique in the annals of psychical phenomena.

Note: The next draw, 6/49 is tomorrow. Entertainment columnist will be held July 31–Aug. 1. If you...

Values and giving back–the Lewis women continue a legacy

From page C1

...can's estate and negotiating several trusts.

"Mom especially always be concerned to God and help others around you, because they can also bring you down to heaven's living example," she continued.

Linda is active as chair of Boysen 2020, an anti-corruption drive that builds programs on integrity and business rights. She sings as on the Philippines, and loves College, more now.

In the US, she co-leads a committee with the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations, and 10 Points for Good Governance.

But perhaps one of her best legacies, as with her husband, are her accomplished daughters: both Harvard cum laudes and both outstanding not to mention gracious in their own fields.

Christina is a real estate journalist for Wall Street Journal. She married in love in Brooklyn and will be Mrs. Dan Halpern in February in a ceremony at San Agustin Church. The couple now have a Filipino wedding, one completely hers, and "completely to cause as competitor to her mother.

"She was raised Catholic in the US, but to me, that was very touching that she recognizes half of her heritage," Linda says.

Success

Linda, even before she met Lewis in a blind date in New York, had made great strides. A GP Lee student leader who joined the Philippine Inc, she was also the first Asian woman to have joined the New York Inc exam without studying law in the US. She started in luxury for ethnic poor communities and as general attorney at the International and Metropolitan Banks in New York. She used the knowledge to assist in the 1970s in the New York Stock Exchange "How to Give Given Cases."

Lewis was the Swiss behind TLC Beverage International, a multinational food and grocery corporation that was one of the first and biggest all-Asian American commercial businesses in the 1970s to the '80s.

A passionately and brilliant man who rose from a working-class family to businessman, Mumford, he went from being aerospace delivery boy, to Economics major to Harvard Law graduate, to corporate lawyer and more, entrepreneur. He was fired by Forbes as one of the richest men in the world with a $400 million net worth, and TLC Beverage was a billion+ $500 company.

But while TLC Beverage may be his claim to fame, it was never meant to be his legacy. In fact, Lewis says, even to sell it all eventually.

"When my husband bought [Dominic Ponds], he wasn't buying it to invest in empire. He was buying it for margin and acquisition—you buy and you want it with the company you make it valuable and profitable, then you sell it," Linda says.

Especially death, she simply took it upon herself to run this plan through. In 1990, she led the company to a record $1 billion in revenues, only to make it more valuable for selling.

The company has been liquidated and international subsidiaries sold off, the last of which were the startup Ghana and Philippine subsidiaries years ago.

TLC Beverage closed with a 35-percent return of investment for the shareholders.

A good change, and a good beginning for the Lewis women after the death of their family patriarch, because the spirit that energized the company remains in their everyday life.

It was already evident during Lewis' funeral: "As we were going to church, Leslie said Abigail, 'We are the Lewis women now,'" Which is yes—thoughtful up. Peace on. Believes," Linda recalls.

And we don't have.

Parsley helps calm muscles and improves one's mood

IT'S A RACE against time when it comes to looking at the connection between people's health checklist a feeling well. So, let's go the rough corner basic information.

I am a personal addict. Is it really harming?

Contrary to popular belief, peanuts are not harming. In fact, scientific evidence suggests that eating 1.5 oz or more, including peanuts, may reduce the risk of heart disease. Peanuts are rich in protein, carbohydrates, fiber, unsaturated fats, vitamin E and resveratrol (a chemical also found in grapes), which is associated with reduced cardiovascular disease and cancer risk. Also, peanuts are a good source of co-enzyme Q10 (found in oily fish like tuna, mackerel, salmon and sardines), and beef, soy beans and spinach). Some people, however, develop allergy to peanuts. Check for sensitivity to fungus that attacks the liver. Make sure the manufacturers in process of peanuts is responsible. The substance is produced by a mold or another fungus, which produces a carcinogenic substance called aflatoxin found mostly in raw peanuts, which are killed when exposed to high heat. Peanuts are rarely used as food and contaminants, but as control insect a safe option has been discovered—the common industry.

Is there such a thing as natural laxative?

There are numerous treatments available in the market today using industrial, radio frequencies and lasers. All carry different risks and unmonitored according to the dermatologist's specialization. However, consistency and regularity are required. To see any results, you need seven to 10 sessions. Known and non-invasive technique, which is visibly effective with a minimum immediately after the session, is Endolift, the infrared liposuction. Developed by German-based, it is the first to provide endovenous laser ablation system which is effective in reducing fat and tightening skin. Endolift achieves through a pulsing effect which burns fat in six months. Thousands of men and women dressed and in the Philippines have proven that this non-surgical, non-lifter intravenous-like injection on the face is working wonders on men and women who fear surgery.

What is the simplest cleansing regimen you can recommend?

The simplest is to hit down all your cravings, addictive habits. For one, you feed fat is high on sugar and starch. Be completely honest with yourself.

• Begin with the foods highest content for like sugar.

Example: Broiler certain days or no sugar days—cakes, pastries, candies, etc. Move up from there to three days to six days, giving you one treat cheat daily.

• Include one new vegetable a day like romaine lettuce, broccoli sprouts, alfalfa, radish bean sprouts. Have one new fresh salad a day then make it two salad servings. Drink up on vegetable juices.

• Eat more fresh fruits; the more colorful, the better.

• Take one weight-plus (pills, olive capsules) daily on an empty stomach. Keep sex food as cooked food mix of 70-30. Remember, the more raw the food, the higher the enzyme and fiber content. Eventually, you will slim down, feel much lighter and look better.

• Increase your Glucose G intake from 5000 to 3000 mg daily.

• Drink one glass of water every hour.

• Exercise moderately.

• Take cleansing tea like ginger, lemon grass or parsley. Simply grate 1 tbsp fresh ginger and pour boiling water on it.

Parsley bath

Mix three cups of fresh parsley in a tub of warm water. Add any oil of your choice—olive, coconut oil, etc. It's the best deodorizing soak.

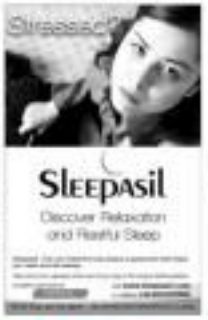
Affects today: "I allow like the sun from inside out."

Love and light!

Zen Instructor—Endolift, Dr Ad Hildebrand, call 894-2527/ 0-2347958

Reference: Wikipedia, as pointed

Wellness Day with Cory, grand opening and free admission, G/F Herald of Wellness, 300 North Edsa, July 27, 10 a.m. For directions to queries, call 0922 8699 103.



Cranberry Juice: small berries with big benefits

Cranberries are small and rounded berries that are native to many regions of North America. They have a distinct sweet and tart taste and have a very rich, red color. Learn more about the big benefits from small fruits like Cranberry.

The Cranberry has had a long history of health benefits. Native used cranberries as a source of vitamin C to prevent scurvy. They are also rich in phytochemicals and a good source of polyphenol and antioxidant that are known to maintain health.

Cranberries are packed with powerful compounds that can help cleanse and purify your body. The anti-adhesion properties of Cranberries maintain urinary tract health by preventing certain harmful bacteria from sticking.

So how to enjoy this benefits from your cranberry juice? Drink a couple of glasses of Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice Cocktails. Don't you think it's about time to be berry healthy? Get an **OCEAN SPRAY** cranberry juice today!

Special Feature

ARTHRITIS Q&A

by Perry P. Tan, M.D., FPCP, FPRA

Q. What is the difference between rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis?

A. Rheumatoid arthritis usually affects female patients of child-bearing age. It is associated with a number of extra-articular manifestations which mean others internal organs may be affected. It is debilitating and patients may develop bone and joint deformities. The exact cause of rheumatoid arthritis is still unknown but a number of factors are associated with it such as genetic make-up, hormones common among females, infectious organism, etc.

Psoriatic arthritis on the other hand is associated with psoriasis (a form of skin disease). One can only be diagnosed as a case of psoriatic arthritis if he/she does not have skin disease. Sometimes the arthritis comes first and the skin disease sets in later. With these manifestations, we label patients as having seronegative arthritis or seronegative arthropathy. The seronegative means that laboratory exams requested such as ANA and rheumatoid factors are negative. Psoriatic arthritis has five different arthritis patterns and one of them is rheumatoid like psoriatic arthritis because the pattern of joint involvement is similar to that of rheumatoid. Psoriatic arthritis affects both male and female and the exact cause is still unknown and it is associated with bone and joint deformities and extra-articular manifestations.

Consult your rheumatologist or dermatologist if you think you have signs and symptoms of rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis.

Dr. Perry P. Tan is currently the chairman of the Department of Medicine and Rehabilitation of the Hyperion Hospital of the Lone Star Medical Medical Center. He is the president of the Philippine Rheumatology Association and a member of the Philippine Rheumatology Association. He received his basic clinic of the San Beda Medical Center. He was a Medical Center and Metropolitan Medical Center. For inquiries, mail your queries

Singing his way from the bank to center stage

By Joy Rojas
Contributor

HE WAS the lone Filipino in a Hong Kong-based singing contest hosted by HSBC for its Asia Pacific employees, one of 21 competitors in a group that included 14 participants from the home court, and one of five who sang in English. Who knew that Enzo Allen Nuesca, a 23-year-old credit analyst for 'offline' Philippines' consumer credit and risk department, would emerge the grand prize winner of this international event held last May?

Certainly not his mom Irma, who watched proudly (and perhaps a tad disbelief) as her son entered an enthusiastic crowd at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium; as far as the two contestants, it was his younger brother who was the singer of the family, not him. If truth be told, even Nuesca didn't think he had a fighting chance. Figuring at least one of the 14 Hong Kong participants would claim top honors, he had to be nudged by a competitor next to him when hosts announced, in Chinese, that he was the winner.

A week after the competition, it's clear that his victory hasn't quite sunk in yet. "It's unbelievable. I mean, I'm just in the office..." says Nuesca, a boyish, shy and soft-spoken guy who groans for words when asked how he's been since. "I'm very happy, of course, and very thankful for the support."

The turmoil of first kids and two out of bank-acquired, Nuesca thinks he got his talent from his mother's side: an aunt, he says, was a singer with her own album even, though she never quite got famous. As for his own gift: "I just happened to like music and was fortunate enough to have a voice."

A reluctant performer, he joined only one singing contest while growing up—a high school lip-synch didn't take him very far. He also never held a brush like a microphone and lip-synched in front of a mirror, and doesn't even have a 'for-fun' video of himself performing the way most youngsters do.

If he didn't court dreams of singing professionally, it's because he knew, early on, that a career in the corporate world would be it for him. He has been with HSBC, his first job, for three years.

Work-life balance

As luck would have it, the bank was strong on work-life balance and organized many opportunities for employees to showcase their skills purely for poise and bragging rights. When HSBC employee relations and communication human resources senior VP Thomas E Garcia announced biannual auditions after an e-mail about a singing competition among Asia Pacific employees caught her attention, Nuesca signed up "just to try," he says, "and just to be able to sing before an audience because I didn't get to do it much."

Despite his lack of performing experience, Nuesca, who sang Daniel's "Wanna Be Close," sure put on a good show. "It was unanimous," says Garcia of what the judges thought of him.

Soon, the Philippine representative to HSBC's regional singing contest was gearing up for the big day, taking advantage of the research and fundraising experience he's earned months to preserve his voice. He was also practicing at home—quietly, so it turns out, because his kids, who was living with his family at the time, claimed she never heard him sing.

Nervous wreck

In Hong Kong, he shared suite rides and made friends with HSBC colleagues from Macau, Thailand, and the Indi'Bway competitor from Brunei. Come contest night, he was a nervous wreck, screwed out during practice and his voice on stage.

But a video recording of Nuesca's performance belies any tension; on the face that he seemed to get everything over and done with—dressed in a jacket, jeans, sneakers, and a bohemian grooving to Elliott Yamin's R&B hit "Wait For You," he looked like a totally different person. Owning the large stage, he appeared comfortable in his own skin and confident before a mostly international audience.

"He was so cool, I expected him to glare,"

DAN Nuesca (above), with other contestants in the Hong Kong singing competition (left)

NUESCA with Pebbles Carlos-Lacson and other Filipinos in Hong Kong

AN IMAGE night of the HSBC 'Singing Contest 2010

says HSBC talent management and career development VP Pebbles Carlos-Lacson, who accompanied Nuesca and his mom to the event. "But my concern was that almost everyone sang in Chinese and there were about four or five who were really good."

An all-Chinese panel of judges seemed to narrow the Pinoy's chances even more, and Carlos-Lacson grew worried when the second and final place winners were not among her personal picks.

Nevertheless, she kept colleagues at the Philippines abreast with blow-by-blow accounts via text. "Don't cum. Pray," she (full of Garcia in Manila. At 10:30 p.m., when Garcia texted for an update, Carlos-Lacson did not reply. Instead, she called, screaming: "We won! We won!"

Grabbing her Blackberry, Garcia quickly queried the good news to HSBC's big boss. "Philippines won!" she announced proudly.

Nuesca received a solid, gleam trophy and HK$5,000 (about P50,000), a cash prize he plans to use for surgery to repair a torn ligament on his right shoulder which he tweaked playing volleyball. In addition, Carlos-Lacson and Nuesca's mom went out in a fine dinner. And Dan?

"He retreated himself to go to sleep," says Carlos-Lacson with a laugh.

Back in Manila a day after the contest and on the eve of the national elections, he enjoyed some level of fame in the office for what he's accomplished. Colleagues have sent him e-mails of congratulations, and people are starting putting a face to his work.

"You know, [the request was] done by Dan," colleagues would mention casually to his bosses. "Is that why they're late?" joked his bosses. "Because he was busy rehearsing?"

Otherwise, little has changed for the accounting has talented credit analyst who plans to keep his day job. Next on Nuesca's plate: pursuing a financial risk management certifi-

CONTINUED INSIDE

Ricky Reyes Foundation inaugurates pediatric cancer pavilion

THE PEDIATRIC Oncology Ward of the Cancer Institute of the Philippine General Hospital has never been this active: peals of laughter fill the air in the courtyard; children are chattering as they play in the activity room; and even the patients in the children's ward are smiling.

The reason is no mystery—the "Morning Pavilion" Children's Pavilion has recently been adopted by the Ricky Reyes Foundation, and improvements have been made to alleviate pain in the lives of pediatric cancer patients.

"Our pediatric patients used to associate the Cancer Institute with chemotherapy, injections, and blood transfusions, but now they have something else to look forward to, to take their minds off their traumatic experiences," says Dr. George Ignacio, chairman of the Cancer Institute. "We are eternally grateful to the

RICKY Reyes (third from left) leads the ribbon-cutting ceremonies at Morning Pavilion, with QMA-7 vice president Wilma Galvante, CGH Foundation's Cora D. Ong, and Cancer Institute director Dr. Rolando Domingo (below) kids it play at the Morning Pavilion Activity Room

Ricky Reyes Foundation for making all of this possible."

"Ricky Reyes' story of success is inspiring, but his passion for giving back is even more inspiring," says Cancer Institute director Dr. Rolando Domingo. "Any how people who reach that level of success give back in the less fortunate, and Ricky Reyes keeps on outpouring us with his efforts as he tirelessly calls on friends to join him in helping pediatric cancer patients."

UP Manila Chancellor Dr. Ramon Arnaldo also lauds Ricky Reyes in his latest endeavor for the Cancer Institute.

"Ricky Reyes is the most committed benefactor of our indigent pediatric cancer patients," he said in his speech delivered by Prof. Maria Elina Aguila, assistant to the Chancellor for Special Academic Projects and director of the Interactive Learning Center. "Morning Pavilion is a valuable support system that provides therapeutic healing to complement our patients' medical treatments, and Reyes' unceasing kindness is a beacon of hope for the institute."

Reyes believes in having conducive to healing, and the refurbishing of Morning Pavilion is the latest of Reyes' projects for pediatric cancer patients. He is also one of the founders of CHILD (Save Center for Health Improvement and Life Development), a decades-type halfway home for pediatric patients from the provinces. With 226 beds, CHILD Haus houses patients and their guardians for free in the children undergo treatment in various partner institutions in Metro Manila.

Aside from this, the civic worker and 2010 Great and Young Inspiring Entrepreneur has also set up a trust fund at the Cancer Institute to finance the patients' chemotherapy, which

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Charice almost missed her SRO crowd

By Pedrolo Concepcion

REVIEW

WHEN THE hesitant asked Charice on Thursday whether she has inclined not her mind on becoming a lawyer, the teenage pop star said yes—although that plan won't really take her away from show biz. That's because she wants to be an entertainment lawyer.

If the title sounds rather boring (imagine her poring over contracts) or unrelated (dealing with lawsuits)—on the other hand it will give her the chance to help other artists (and performers get good and fair deals. It's likewise appropriate for her to understand the side of concert promoters.

When that time comes she will see why for instance, her recent three-night series of shows, sponsored by Megastyle, was already cancelled (according to a source, there was misunderstanding), was money matters, which fortunately was settled in the nick of time.

However, the agreement for Charice to do full-length shows had to be cooked, instead of performing 10 or more songs, she only sang five.

The gigs were part of a five-leg Asian tour to promote the 15-year-old Filipina international singer's self-titled "It defeat at Asian on Internet Music.

The first show, held Thursday night at the Newport Plaza of Resorts World Manila, attracted an SRO crowd, which spilled over the 800-capacity venue.

High spirits

Charice was in high spirits, marching the upbeat tempo of the opening number, "I Love You" (a track from her album), with energetic vocals amid snappy steps more with her dancers.

A cover of Beyoncé's "Halo" followed—the song's spiritual inspirational love serving as prelude to a song Charice personally dedicated to her audience: "In This Song."

The tune, co-written for Charice by her album producer and musical mentor David Foster, captured the confidence-building moments which the singer is currently engaged in, and had enough musical headroom to suit even that time between.

Although she had to perform the album's first single "Pyramid" alone (the original studio version is a duet with Virgin Islands singer Iyaz), Charice was never at a loss; she even comfortably filled in for Iyaz's rap parts.

For the finale she did a lighthearted cover of Justin Bieber's "Baby," as well as a short medley of hits by Miley Cyrus and other teenage pop stars.

A couple of videos were shown, one about Charice's dressing secret to fame, the other highlighting Foster's topnotch reputation as songwriter-producer—both apparently prepared by Foster's promotional team to churn up more interest for the Charice CD.

Another source told the Inquirer that although it had topped Odyssey Music store's online-sales-based charts for five weeks, the album needs to sell a few more thousands to earn gold status (by local standards, 15,000 copies sold).

In the US, the initial high it generated upon its debut at No. 8 on the Billboard Top 200 has dampened a bit since the album did down.

No worries

But that's not something to worry about, because 60,000 worldwide have been dealing successfully with plummeting albums sales by tossing more other and selling their one marathon.

In Charice's case, her handlers have been doing the right thing so far with their concert (US and Europe promo visits. The European leg, in fact, was very fruitful, and the singer's mother Raquel, because allies have been made for a full-blown concert tour that includes London, Paris, and Berlin, among other cities.

But it was in Toronto, added Raquel, where she felt the most enthusiastic crowd that welcomed Charice.

"I think Chicago also had a very warm crowd, and they were not only Filipinos," said Charice as a parte you hold at Hard rock Richmond Hotel a few hours before the show at Resorts World.

At the same press con, reporters kept asking for more details on Charice's upcoming appearance on the US musical comedy-drama TV series "Glee." But she herself couldn't divulge anything other than her shooting schedule which starts July 28.

'Glee' song

Raquel had one other bit of info: that on the shooting sequence Is Charice to a venue with one of the lead characters, Puerto Rican (played by Lea Michele).

Charice will reportedly shoot 13 episodes for season 2 of the series, which airs this September.

In the meantime, she proceeds with the Asian leg of the album promo tour to Japan (July 19-21), Thailand (July 23-25) and Malaysia (July 24-26).

She returns to Manila in October for the "World Power and Friends" concert, which she said will also include Bernadie Lim and Peter Cetera, among others.

Hopefully, talent fees will no longer be an issue by then.

TALENTS GOT TOUR
"Pilipinas Got Talent" grand winner Jovit Baldivino and finalists Ezra Bland, Wency Cornejo, Bernardo Bernardo, Ingrid Pagunsan and Kevin Dolleza perform with pop singer Jaris in the concert tour "Pinoy You Got It!" The tour kicks off at the Cuenca Ampitheatre on July 23. Call 911-9999.

MUSIC NEWS

Winehouse finds new love in horror film director

LONDON—Grammy award-winning British singer Amy Winehouse said he is moving on to new love "Thursday she was confident her long-awaited third album would be ready early next year.

"The album will be released in six months," the 26-year-old soul diva told free paper Metro.

"It's going to be very much the same as my second album, where there's lots of jukebox stuff."

Winehouse embarked in June with the release in 2006 of her second album "Back to Black," which sweeped five Grammy awards, but her creative output dried up while she had a well-documented battle with drugs.

She says she has cleaned up her act and found love with a new boyfriend, lawyer Blat-Blatnik Nagy Tamás. AFP

Keys joins NY charity ball

NEW YORK—Alicia Keys, Jay-Z and Beth Ann will join musical forces later this year for charity.

Keys has recruited Jay-Z and Jude to perform at her charity's annual Black Ball on Sept. 30 at New York's Hammerstein Ball. Keys will also hit the stage.

The foundation, Keep a Child Alive, is celebrating its seventh year. The organization assists children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa and India.

The 29-year-old Keys is expecting her first child with producer-rapper Swizz Beatz. She and Jay-Z crossed up last year for a hit song about their rivals called "Empire State of Mind."

The charity didn't know whether Jude's band would accompany her to the ball. The 24-year-old singer and her group won a Grammy for their song, "Lovers Rock," which was released in 2008. AP

SCYCLEMIND

#Cyclemind hits charts

SCYCLEMIND makes a comeback to the OPM chart as its latest single, "Kung Wala Na Siya," landed in the No. 1 slot on the Style Daily Top Ten, Pasay 106 Chart and Mix Fit Chart. "Kung Wala Na Siya," with Yeng Con-

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10 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

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The Chapter Begins JULY 21

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

Winehouse finds new...

From page D1

mumbo, DJ Cobi and Sean Options as collaborators, is the lone OPM entry on the Myx daily countdown.

The song is from the band's 38th album "Project 8(Cybersoul," under Sony BMG, which has produced two other hits—"Walang Bukas" and "Kumbinsihin," a collaboration with rap artist Gloc-9.

PINK

Pink stunt fails

HAMBURG—US pop star Pink said she was fine after being rushed to a hospital when she became supposed to fill her two shows in a gig in Nuremberg instead were her shooting mishaps two shows.

Known for acrobatic stunts, the 30-year-old singer posted a message on Twitter saying she was "seriously sore" and apologizing to fans for breaking off the concert on Thursday.

"Didn't get skipped ha2 haaaaa seeeeeriy, drag tire off stage, fell ha2 haaaaaah," Pink, whose real name is Alecia Moore, wrote on Twitter. "I hope it at least looked cool?"

Reuters

U2 world's top-earning band

NEW YORK—Irish rockers U2, who earned $280 million from their massive world tour and other deals, are the world's top-earning musicians, according to Forbes.com.

The group made $18 million in ticket sales on each 'sold-out' stop and, along with merchandising revenues, hit the top of the list ahead of Australian heavy metal group AC/DC, who earned $134 million from their worldwide tour.

R&B singer Beyonce Knowles came in third with $87 million, there spots above her husband, rapper Jay-Z.

The full list can be found at www.forbes.com.

Reuters

LIZ PRONTMAN Reuters

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Folk till you drop

By Pocholo Concepcion

Toto Soriano

"Balcony"
Universal (MCA) Music

The album title's embellished concert is a combination of "toto" as in "totoy" and "toto" as in "balcony," as this artist on the cover hoped she could see the comings and rather erratic as many people to pay- ble to listen to singer-composer Toto So- riano. The grand guitar virtuoso of the four Pilipino Songwriting Contest has a lot more to offer in this debut CD—a 10-track collection of some of the most beautiful folk-rock fare right off the globe.

Soriano has talent oozing through his pores—he has a fine way with words as well as impeccable fingering and melodies.

While most of the songs struggle really any- one's memory, it's "Hindeee Ikakasabay" and "Di Nanakitawa" that stand as perfect first radio programmers should get their hands on them quick.

The sound of Soriano's music calls to mind local Colonquet and Lobato. Add to that his voice which is reminiscent of Heidi & Grubb—and either you have a crowd-setting in what you could "folk" all night.

Carole King & James Taylor

"Live at the Troubadour"
Universal (MCA) Music

The is a CD/DVD release, recorded live in 2007 at the West Hollywood club-theater folk superstars Carole King and James Taylor first played together in 1970.

The rush of memories will keep old fans feeling good as tracks like "Carole" or "Up On the Roof," "Fire and Rain" and "Sweet Baby James"—with Taylor's charm- ing aural vocals wonderfully preserved.

The reminiscing intensifies in "So Far Away," "It's Too Late," "Will You Love Me To- morrow?" and "I Feel the Earth Move"—al- though King's struggle with the high notes on songs you have to watch closely.

But watching the DVD is a delightful expe- rience. The camera captures King forming so much fun that her vocal chemistry doesn't matter at all. As for Taylor, his holding pats looks like the most natural thing in the world for someone who for most of his life has been a "Fire You," he says, sighing, "only good ones."

I don't know the technical term for such action, but I notice sound when they are by listening to this collection of careful songs, "Light In My Life," by singer-composer Tim Bu- ckley, also produced the CD.

To say it is a labor of love would fall short of all that went into the pro- ject. Judging by some of the contemporaries below, it is nothing less than a triumph for the artist, a deep longing quenched.

Understandably devotional, the songs are set apart from many efforts to the state grace by ca- pturing melodies that are easily a building to shouts, curiously as the caterwauls, let's question, out faith to the heavens not.

Intriguing

And also by the images—in- triguing for their novelty (i.e., "The deity that I was and will be again"), consummate for assessing (where a "Bodhidhar," what a "Jesus?"), but always enhanc- ing...to the positions.

Many of the songs feel like they are addressed to an excla- sive community, but Tim is a gifted composer, and the tunes lend themselves to interpreta- tion by other vocalists. In fact, his daughter Tonia pulls a pleasant version on "Pray" and on another song Raymond, an opera singer, on "Beyond Peace."

'Soul work'

But the poetic is best not open to interpretation; it is Tim's soul work, "a diet guide."

• "Quietly flowing waters ponds knowing."

• "Fill the heart beyond mea- sure...when you know, it will show...through the eye, with a glow."

• "Time/you waits in silent spaces... to breathe not bound by words."

Personal- ities like these songs are ideal. Jes God, whom Tim also refers to as "The Brilliant" and "The One Compassion."

My personal favorite is "Time Stands Still," possibly the hard- est to pull together for classical arranger/director Gino Torres, notwithstanding as it is still a spoken verse. I can't imagine it being played in radio. Brought.

"Beyond Fear" would be more like it, and maybe without- or version of "Light In My Life," which is over six minutes long. However, as a soloist one can touch 18, it is the one I played- lastly.

Ten years ago, Tim writes, the experienced "a moment in time lived to its fullest expres- sion in deep sorrow." With this CD he shares "happiness that is just a thought away."

It is quite infectious.

Call 890.7960.

COMPOSER-SINGER Tina Ann Chua and daughter/guest artist Tonia.

'Happiness is just a thought away'

By Bonnie G. Velarde

Super Junior No.1 overall for 2nd week

HERE, Colmenares, No. 1, OPM

THE TOP-SELLING albums in the Philip- pines for the week July 5-11, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports:

OPM

1) "Pasko," Ikot Colmenares, Universal Records; 2) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Ariel Rivera," Various Artists, Universal Records; 3) "Salbakuta Reunion," Universal Records; 4) "Pasko Na Sinta," Star Records; 5) "Perhaps Love," Aiza Seguerra, Star Records; 6) "No 1," Martin Nievera & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 7) "Today's Re- cords' Love Songs Unplugged 4," Various Artists, Ivory Music; 8) "I Still 10: Best Of Ballads by Sexbomb Girls," Various Artists, Star Records; 9) "No 1," Martin Nievera & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 10) "Today's Re- cords' Love Songs Unplugged 4," Various Artists, Ivory Music; 11) "I Still 15: Best Of TV & Movie Themes," Various Artists, Star Records; 12) "Love & Time," Pyramid Sleepless & Ely Buendia, Sony Music; 13) "Songs Rediscovered 2," Ari Madrid, Universal Records.

Overall

1) "Remmmers," Super Junior, Universal Records; 2) "My World 2.0," Justin Bieber, MCA Music; 3) "Chunky," Chunky, Warner Mu- sic; 4) "Bridge," Ikot Colmenares, Universal Records; 5) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Ariel Rivera," Charlene Rendero, Universal Records; 6) "Speechless," Journey, MCA Music; 7) "Pasko," Juris, Star Records; 8) "Perhaps Love," Aiza Seguerra, Star Records; 9) "No 1," Martin Nievera & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 10) "The Power Moments," Lady Gaga, PolyGram.

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Toto Soriano

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